

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 6, 2014

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Despair over damage caused to vehicles

See Page 2



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See Page 12



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See Page 40



M6 delays warning with work closures

FIVE weeks of overnight closures have been announced on the M6 for resurfacing and road improvements, leading to warnings of disruption for drivers.

Closures will be in place between junction 10 at Walsall and 11 at Cheshire Hay during the work.

The northbound carriage-way will be closed from February 10-26 between midnight and 7am.

The southbound side will be shut from February 27 to March 12, from 11pm to 7am.

Highways Agency project manager Purnima Kaul said: "The work will improve the road surface and provide a smoother ride for road users. We will also renew road markings."

"Closing the road will enable us to carry out the work safely and more efficiently. We advise people to allow extra time for their journeys."

Northbound traffic will be diverted from the M6 at junction 10 along the A54, A4150, A449, and A5 before rejoining the motorway at junction 12. Southbound traffic will leave the M6 at junction 11 and take the A460 and M54 westbound to junction two.

Drivers will then head along the A449, the A4150 Wolverhampton Ring Road and the A454 to rejoin the motorway at junction 10.

CHIEF PLEDGES SCHOOLS HELP

Surgery move to cut A&E figures

GP SURGERIES across Walsall are to open on weekends in a bid to ease pressures at the A&E department at Manor Hospital.

Health chiefs have revealed that 24 practices will open their door under a new pilot programme that will start this month and run until the end of March.

In addition the Walk-in Centre based near the market in High Street will extend opening hours by an extra two hours a day. The centre which is usually open from 8am until 8pm will now be open until 10pm seven days a week to cope with high demand.

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group accountable officer Salma Ali said: "In Walsall 24 GP practices have arranged to open their surgeries at the weekend in order to try and give patients better access."

"We would encourage patients registered at the practices to make full use of these additional appointments. The Walk-in Centre will also be open for an extra two hours a day from 8pm until 10pm for any patients whose GP is not open."

Latest figures for the first three weeks of January show an average of 90.2 per cent of patients in the A&E department were seen within the four-hour target. To find out more log onto www.walsallccg.nhs.uk

Cat call after find on bus to Paw-sall



Driver Phil Brownridge, who does the 301 route around Walsall, and found a young cat on the back of his bus

that she was taken back to the garage and was fed.

"This is obviously someone's pet and it is important we can get the back to them as soon as possible, so we really do want any help we can get from local people."

The depot said the cat is the oldest piece of lost property ever to be found on one of its vehicles.

The little critter is currently in safe hands and making herself comfortable with National Express staff.

And as luck would have it there was a box full of cat food which was left on another local route last week so she has been well-fed.

Garage

"I can honestly say I have never had anything like this before."

The 35-year-old from Walsall added:

"It is not everyday you are told that

there is a cat sat calmly at the back

of the bus watching the houses go by.

"As soon as I found her I made sure

Pet owners' service offer

DOG owners are being encouraged to get their pets neutered for less this month.

The Walsall branch of the RSPCA is offering the service to owners of bull breeds or bull cross breed dogs throughout February.

It is part of the charity's Love a Bull Breed campaign.

In a bid to tackle the growing problem, the Walsall branch is offering discount neutering to owners who are receiving benefits.

For more details call 0845 2723570 or email enquiries@rspcawalsall.org.uk

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Chiefs give up on owed £8.61m

UNIVERSITIES and colleges in the Black Country and Staffordshire have given up chasing millions of pounds of student debt, it has been revealed.

Institutions had to write off bills for accommodation and tuition totalling £8.77 million from domestic and foreign students because there was no realistic prospect of ever receiving the money. The revelation comes after 13 people were

arrested after a protest about the costs of education at the University of Birmingham.

In November, a report by vice-chancellors' group Universities UK also suggested 2012's hike in tuition fees to £9,000 was largely replacing government funding cuts and institutions would need more money in the future. The Express & Star revealed in August that local universities were still continuing to

chase up £6.46 million in outstanding fees from students from 67 different countries.

It then emerged that the bulk of student fees were owed to the University of Wolverhampton at £3.7m. Its finance chiefs said the figure was so high because they only wrote-off bad debts when they were certain it could not be recovered.

That was after exhausting avenues like using debt collectors.

The University of Wolverhampton also had to give up chasing £4.59m in the past five years to 2013, for a total of 2,865 students.

Figures were revealed under the Freedom of Information Act.

Walsall College wrote off £151,010 from 645 students.

Sandwell College has written off debts for 255 pupils in the past five years to 2013, but the vast majority of them were from the UK.

Rent rises of 3.8pc approved by council

RENT rises which will see people pay more than £150 extra each year have been approved by councillors.

Cash-strapped Sandwell Council, which must make cuts of £100 million by 2017, said it had no option but to increase charges for residents by 3.8 per cent.

Bosses approved the average rent rise of 3.8 per cent increase from April at a meeting on Wednesday.

Councils insist they have tried to keep any rise below the government's guideline.

Councillor Ian Jones, the borough's regeneration chief, said this was a 'regrettable' move for the Labour-dominated authority to make.

He said: "Increasing rents is always going to be regrettable. We know other authorities are having to do the same but we think Sandwell is going to be one of the lowest increases."

"We have to do this because rent pays into the money we use for repairs and improvements to homes, and if we didn't do it, tenants would see a poorer service. We could not ask other taxpayers to cover the shortfall in our housing revenue account."

1,400 parents in fines for term-time breaks

ALMOST 1,400 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been fined for taking their children on holiday during school term.

In the Walsall borough alone more than 600 were hit with penalties during the last academic year, shelling out almost £40,000. The new figures obtained by the Express & Star show parents are paying dearly for flouting government rules.

Under legislation, which came into force in September, headteachers are only allowed to grant term-time absences in exceptional circumstances.

Before this it was down to the headteacher's discretion whether or not they granted up to 10 days holiday.

But many parents argue they have been priced out of going on holiday during peak times. Parents who have been deemed to have flouted the rules are handed a penalty charge notice (PCN) of £60 per parent, per child, which increases to £120 if not paid within 21 days.

Court

Those who refuse to pay within 28 days can then face being taken to court for failing to ensure their child regularly goes to school, which can see fines of up to £2,500 or three months' jail.

In the last academic year 663 parents with children at schools in Walsall have shelled out £39,650 in penalties, with the authority dishing out a further 403 charges so far this year.

Like Walsall Council, bosses at authorities in Dudley and Sandwell began issuing PCNs before the new laws came to pass. In the academic year 2012 to 2013, Dudley Council imposed 226 fines on parents, raking in a total of £7,380. Sandwell Council issued just 15 penalty notices in the same period, although two families were taken to court.

Focusing on wildlife at nature site

ADULTS who visit a nature centre are being given the chance to try their hand at wildlife photography, thanks to a new group being established at the site.

Staff who work with adults with disabilities at the Goscole Centre and Paul Mason, community development officer at the Goscole Greenacres initiative there, are now appealing to anyone who has any old digital cameras to donate to come forward.

He said: "We're always looking at new things to do and offer here and we think a wildlife photography group will be popular among service users."

"Goscole Greenacres is a lovely site with community gardens, our fishing platform and canalside walk and there should be plenty of things to photograph."

Linda Cooper, Walsall Council's area manager autism/complex needs, based at the Goscole Centre, said staff would help to support anyone who wanted to be a part of the new group.

Anyone who can donate any old digital cameras to the new group can call Mr Mason on 07432 625923.

Hole new problem to hit trade

Great weather for ducks – Councillor Doug James and Wendy Collins with the potholes

FED-UP motorists are running the gauntlet of potholes on a town centre road busy with buses and commuter traffic, a councillor claims.

Darlaston councillor Doug James says drivers are claiming that their cars have been damaged due to the crumbling surface, in St Lawrence Way, as huge pot holes and a decaying road surface take their toll. He claims motorists have seen tyre, tracking and suspension issues as a result of the

uninsightful holes between the car park entrance to the Asda store and lay-by.

"People are concerned that shoppers and visitors will stop coming to Darlaston Town Centre as a result of the poor road conditions," he said.

Car driver Wendy Collins, of Walsall, who regularly visits relatives in the town, explained how she recently forked out £500 to repair her Seat after its air bag sensor was damaged after rolling over a rut in the road.

Looking at job options

YOUNG people in Walsall are invited to check out a range of pre-apprenticeship opportunities at an event tomorrow.

People aged between 16 and 24 can attend an information event at Walsall Adult & Community College at its Hawbush Centre, Beeches Road, Leamore, on Friday.

It is for people who are interested in careers in digital engineering, construction, sports, business, health and social care and childcare.

The sessions will be held between 12.30pm and 4.30pm and places can be booked on 01922 654353.

Crafty children

A CRAFT session allowing children to make magical matchboxes is being held this month.

It takes place at Walsall Local History Centre, for five to 12 year-olds on February 17 between 11am and 1pm, at £1.50 per child. For details call 01922 721305.

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Hospice on world stage in care bid

A HOSPICE group is one of six charities being showcased in the first global guide to palliative care by the World Health Organisation.

The Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life was published at the Palais de Nations in Geneva. It includes details on St Giles Hospice, which has sites in Lichfield, Walsall and Sutton Coldfield.

Peter Holliday, St Giles Hospice Chief Executive, said: "The atlas will help improve understanding about the best practice work already being done in hospice and palliative care. It will also be an important tool for those striving to implement and improve hospice and palliative care programmes and services on a global level."

The WHO estimates that a minimum of 40 million people worldwide require palliative care annually and the need for palliative care will grow in decades to come.

The publication of the Atlas follows a resolution by the WHO Executive Board earlier this month which urges countries to integrate palliative care into health-care systems, to improve training.

Free event for relaxing

PEOPLE in need of relaxation will be able to seek help from meditation gurus at a free event in West Bromwich. The Mindfulness and Meditation event at West Bromwich Community Centre in Gayton Road has been organised by the Brahma Kumaris a spiritual group who specialise in relaxation techniques.

The event on February 14 will start at 6.30pm and continue until 8pm. It will feature a talk and a demonstration of meditation aimed at lower anxiety and relieve symptoms of depression and irritability. For more information call 0121 464 5594.

Heirloom theft

A MAN was devastated after thieves stole a family heirloom. The 31-year-old had just left a club on in Birmingham last week and let two men into his flat who stole his mobile, a sat-nav and a ring which belonged to his great grandfather.

Pub to make way for care home, in plans

A PUB which dates back to 1928 will be demolished to make way for a care home, under latest plans unveiled.

The proposals would see the Thimblemill pub in Bearwood transformed. The former drinking venue has been closed for around six months and has been targeted in a series of vandal attacks.

Now Brierley Groom architects have put in plans on behalf of its owners Thimblemill Estates, to raze the old pub to the ground. In its place it is proposed a care home with space for 87 residents with individual rooms and en-suite facilities will be built. The exact cost of the scheme is not yet known.

The building, which was first built for the brewers Mitchells & Butlers in 1928, is locally listed by Sandwell Council and it cannot be demolished without the authority first giving permission for bulldozers to move onto the site on the junction of Thimblemill Road and Norman Road.

Landscaped

In documents submitted with plans, Brierley Groom said: "We believe that redevelopment of this site will enhance the area and will bring a positive contribution to the local environment."

Architects added they planned to build

four three-storey wings to house the bedrooms in the new facility, with day spaces for its residents to socialise.

There will also be a landscaped garden, under plans.

Abbey ward Councillor Bob Piper believed there would be some opposition to the scheme from neighbours, as there had been calls to save The Thimblemill from closure around six months ago.

He said: "Some people had taken to Facebook at the time of the closure to say Save The Thimblemill."

"It's been closed for around six months now and in that time it's been vandalised

quite a lot. It's been allowed to be vandalised really because since it was closed, there was a period of time when there was no kind of protection or anything sealing off the building so people got in."

"There were concerns something serious could happen like an arson attack so the council had to step in to board up the pub to stop that kind of thing happening."

"The owners had initially sealed the site off but the boards and security measures were then removed."

"I suspect the fabric of the building might not be what it was before that vandalism," concluded Councillor Piper.

Gang in reign of terror on Co-op stores get jail

THREE men have spent their first week behind bars, after being given long prison terms for a series of raids at Co-op stores across the Midlands which left staff terrified.

Their actions, captured on CCTV cameras, showed how gang members Amandeep Singh, Ryan Shaw, and Jani Wright, manhandled staff when they pounced at the stores just before closing time.

Dramatic film footage from the raid at Cheslyn Hay, in Staffordshire, show two gang members as they arrive at the shop, in High Street, on April 26, 2012.

One of the robbers can be seen following the shop workers along the aisle to the back of the store. A shop worker is seen bending in front of the safe before putting the cash into a bag held by one of the men.

The footage from this robbery was aired on BBC's Crimewatch show and proved to be a vital move for the investigating detectives as it generated huge public awareness to the robberies.

Conspiracy

Singh, aged 25, of Salisbury Road, Birchfield, Birmingham, admitted two charges of conspiracy to rob, co-accused Shaw, aged 20, who the court heard had been a talented teen rapper, of Sedgemoor Way, Northfield, admitted nine offences. Wright, aged 25, of Conwy Street also Birmingham admitted 10 offences of conspiracy to rob last year.

The gang carried out between them

15 robberies including stores in Walsall, Coven, Kidderminster, Bridgnorth, Tamworth, Burton upon Trent, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Their campaign of terror came to an end after a regional investigation into the robberies, led by Staffordshire Police, titled Operation Viper.

All four forces of the West Midlands region – Staffordshire, West Mercia, Warwickshire and West Midlands Police forces – supported by the Regional Intelligence Unit were involved.

Shaw and Wright were eventually arrested after they had raided a store in Lodge Lane, Bridgnorth, in Shropshire, in October



One of the robberies in progress at the Cheslyn Hay premises



One of the CCTV images of a Co-op being robbed

2012. It had previously been hit by the gang the previous July. Singh was arrested the following day at home.

Mr Michael Grey, defending, Shaw said: "It is an overwhelming mystery of this case as to why this young man chose this path. No weapon was involved in the robberies, there was physical contact by way of man-handling, but no gratuitous violence."

While Mr Mohammed Riaz, defending Singh, said his role in the conspiracy was limited and that he went along to act as a lookout. Staffordshire Police senior investigating officer DCI Paul Clews said: "The sentencing is to be welcomed and sends out a strong message – this area's forces will

work closely together to ensure those causing significant harm will be caught, charged and put before the court. These crimes were committed against hard-working members of our communities and left several of the victims traumatised. I hope the prison sentences in some way help to bring closure.

The men must serve half of their prison terms before being released. The court is also due to consider confiscation of vehicles linked to the men under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

Dramatic CCTV footage of the first raid at Kidderminster during which £2,200 was stolen was shown to the court.

It showed three men wearing hoodies and

scarves to hide their appearance acting aggressively as they walked into the store.

One of them is seen frog-marching a female worker along the aisle towards the back of the store, holding her by the neck. She is then shoved towards the till where one of the robbers jumps over the counter.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said the workers tried to get the men to take lottery scratchcards, but instead they demanded that the safe be opened.

Sentencing the gang, Judge Nicholas Dean QC said: "You went at night close to closing time when there would be the highest amount of cash as it was cash that you were seeking."

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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RHODES**

A COMMITTEE of MPs has criticised the Royal Household for spending money unwisely. So that's a stern memo to Queen Kettle from the House of Pots.



IN FACT, is there a more wasteful institution in the world than the UK Parliament? You would think by now, with 70 per cent of our laws passed in Brussels and separate governments established in Scotland, Wales and Ulster, that the Commons could do its job with far fewer MPs. Yet 650 fat bottoms are still crammed on to those leather benches with a further 800 – an all-time record – in the House of Lords. Never in the field of human politics have so many done so little and charged so much.



A DRIVER-v-cyclist video went viral this week. It shows a white Audi edging into a cycle-only box in London. A cyclist remonstrates with the driver. The Audi sets off, the cyclist in hot, indignant pursuit. At the next lights, the cyclist puts his angry face against the driver's window and rages: "You ***ing p****!" At this point someone gets out of the Audi and thumps the cyclist. Judging from the comments to the video, how you react to this incident depends entirely on your mode of transport. Cyclists see it as a shocking assault on one of their clan. Drivers see an obscenity-yelling cyclist getting his comeuppance. (Seriously, if you stick your face a few inches from a stranger's face and call him a ***ing p****" what do you expect?) A visitor from Mars would study the scene, with bikes, cars and lorries whizzing everywhere and wonder why in the name of sanity they are all sharing the same roads.



ED Balls's plan for a 50p rate appeals to the politics of envy, that deep-seated British belief that the "rich" (which usually means those earning £10,000-a-year more than us), should be made to suffer for their success. Yet surely the ocean-cruise industry is a more effective cure for our envy than the tax system. This week, another 300 well-heeled passengers have been stricken with sickness and diarrhoea in the Caribbean. Own up. Is there any greater joy than hearing that your rich friends, having boasted for months about their forthcoming cruise, have just spent £10,000 and six days sitting on the loo?



HOW many Scots, hearing this week that Scotland could keep the pound only if it surrendered a degree of sovereignty, were wondering what this arrangement might be called. How about The United Kingdom?



SO FAREWELL, Pete Seeger, the American folk singer who challenged the system and used music as his weapon in the struggle. Sadly, he also spawned a new breed of rebels without a chord. In the Sixties and Seventies every party attracted at least one sad-looking teenager turning up in a US combat jacket inscribed "Che" with a CND badge, Palestinian scarf and a guitar. This unhappy breed would croon We Shall Overcome when everyone knew they were middle-class kids and the only thing they needed to overcome was acne.



LABOUR is pressing for the law to be changed to ban people smoking in cars containing children. They were in power for 13 years. Why didn't they do it then?



OUR changing language. A BBC announcer told us that last night's series Britain's Great War would explain "how the Great War impacted Britain." Coming up, the First World War, impact by impact. Huns impact Belgium. Old Contemptibles impact Huns. Brits impact Loos. Huns impact Verdun. Brits impact Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele. Bolsheviks impact Tsar. Huns impact Western Front. Brits impact Hindenburg Line. Armistice impacts Huns. Spanish Flu impacts everybody. And the winner is – American grammar.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes
every Monday to Friday in
your Express & Star**

Commissioner meets village people

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis visited a parish council as he continues to put forward his vision for the future of policing in the area.

Mr Ellis attended a meeting with councillors from Essington Parish Council to give them a taste of his plans for the future and also answer questions as well as explain his role.

He spoke about his accomplishments over the 12 months since

taking up the role and also spoke about how Essington will benefit by the changes he is set to make.

Councillor Beryl Tarbuck expressed her concern to Mr Ellis over a spate of burglaries in recent months in Broad Lane in the village, near Willenhall.

He said under his planned changes, should anything like that happen again, the parish council could arrange to meet the local po-

lice officers, who would also step up patrols in the area.

He said: "I'm very surprised you haven't seen any police in Broad Lane but you would be amazed at how many times people miss the cars while they are out."

"Under the new system we are hoping to introduce, we will be able to have a print out of where in Essington patrol cars have been."

"However, if this sort of thing

happens again I would expect your local police officer to be sat at the end of the table at your next meeting explaining to you what they are doing about it."

Councillor David Clift, chair of the council, said Essington suffers mostly with minor crime such as parking, anti-social behaviour and speeding, but said those are the problems that affect most of the people in the village.

Subway eatery to shut after trade loss

A FAST food chain in a previously bustling shopping area is closing down after trade plummeted – but bosses are already drawing up plans to open a bigger outlet nearby.

Subway in Bridge Street, Walsall will close on March 1 after 10 years. Bosses are in talks to take over an empty unit in Park Street – and in the meantime the five staff from the Bridge Street store will move to the existing restaurant at the Saddlers Centre.

Manager Johnny Khag said footfall had dropped since Walsall College moved to its Wisemore Campus four years ago, with the Tesco in Littleton Street also drawing people away.

And he said the firm had struggled to keep up with rising business rates and rents as profits dropped from £6,000 a week to £3,000 in recent months.

However Mr Khag says he is confident the new outlet in Park Street will attract more customers. Mr Khag said: "It is heartbreaking to see the Bridge Street store close. We received excellent support for our other store, however the Bridge Street store has been trading at a loss for quite a while."

New chapter for readers

YOUNG bookworms helped to add a new chapter to their school's fundraising activities when they raised thousands of pounds in a mammoth readathon.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 at Aldridge School read hundreds of books to raise more than £2,700. Money from the event has gone to CLIC Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation. Over the past seven years the school, in Tyning Lane, has raised more than £14,800 for both.

To celebrate, students held a special assembly with guest of honour Lauren Williams, 16, who is Birmingham's Young Poet Laureate.

Quiz for team

A FUNDRAISING quiz in aid of Darlaston Town FC takes place tomorrow night (Friday). The club is being revived after a £5,000 fundraising target was reached. The event, featuring a raffle, is at Hawkings Sport & Social Club, Coppice Lane, Cheslyn Hay, from 8.30pm.

THE people have spoken – with a massive 55,000 signatures on a petition to save free transport for pensioners.

Now they face an anxious wait to see if they can stop the axe from falling on their much-needed services. Transport authority Centro is planning cuts of £14 million which would see free tram and train travel stripped from pensioners. This would come alongside the increase of child fares on buses and funding cut from the Ring and Ride service.

The organisation, funded by councils in the West Midlands, says it has to slash the budgets for 'discretionary' travel. Free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled will be protected because it is required by law.

But Centro had previously gone further by extending it to trams and trains and using its own budgets. Walsall councillor and former mayor Richard Worrall, who has launched the fight amid fears the elderly will suffer, was joined by members of the West Midlands Pensioners Convention at a meeting in Birmingham of council leaders from across the region last week.

Bosses on the Integrated Transport Authority Shadow Board were discussing funding for Centro and the cost-cutting plans at the behind-closed doors meeting. The final outcome will

not be known until Centro meets on February 14 to unveil the final budget.

In a letter accompanying the petition Councillor Worrall called on council chiefs 'to do whatever is in their power to maintain the level of Centro funding for West Midlands Ring & Ride's services to the most elderly, frail and least mobile sections of our community'. It comes after 80 campaigners took part in a rally in Walsall town centre to show their support.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper, who is a member of the ITS Shadow Board, has previously said running costs should be cut at Centro before free train and tram travel for pensioners 'because they built this country'.

He highlighted Centro spends around £19.5m on its operational costs – such as buildings, management and staff – and says Centro must trim that bill before 'attacking' the services.

Gem of an Irish night

JEWELLERY making and an Irish night are among the fundraising events being organised by members of a church.

Residents are urged to call in and make their own jewellery at a workshop event at Delves Baptist Church in Walsall on February 15 from 2.30 to 5pm. It will be led by the Bead-creative Company.

This will be followed by an Irish theme night featuring band Good Traditions on March 15 at 7.30pm at the venue, Bell Lane, Delves.

Proceeds will go towards the church's building project.

Charlie's leg up for cause



Sky Sports' Charlie Webster visits the New Square shopping centre with Julian Roberts

A TOUR of 40 football clubs might strike some as an ambitious and fun New Year's Resolution.

For TV presenter and Women's Aid ambassador Charlie Webster however, it has been the biggest challenge of her life.

The 31-year-old set herself the goal of 250 miles over seven days to spread the message of Women's Aid and try and break the taboo of discussing domestic vi-

olence by broaching the subject with the football community.

She had to take a break from running last week, as she had developed the onset of compartment syndrome in her right leg. Doctors warned she could lose her leg if she carried on due to the extreme swelling.

The plucky 31-year-old however vowed to press on with her challenge despite the pain barrier after just one day's recovery.

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City tops the table for couch potatoes

BIRMINGHAM has the most physically active adults among top UK cities, a new report has revealed.

Research carried out by YouGov on behalf of Royal Institute of Architects (RIBA) has been created to show the link between the importance of green space and health.

The report also shows that Birmingham had the highest level of diabetes which researchers put down to the high housing density and 20 per cent less green space compared to the best performing local authorities.

The study carried out among people in Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield indicated that England's obesity epidemic could be eased if cities and towns invested in better public spaces.

RIBA President Stephen Hodder said: "At a time of austerity and increased concern with physical and mental wellbeing, it's shocking to discover that just by making public health a priority when planning cities, we can save the country upwards of £1bn annually through reduced obesity-related healthcare costs."

Franchising bid by firm

THE One Stop convenience store chain is to open 20 new franchise shops by the end of February.

One Stop, which is owned by Tesco, has already opened five pilot stores in England and Wales.

It is being advised on the move into franchising by national law firm Shoosmiths.

Brownhills-based One Stop says its franchise model is aimed at good independent retailers who want to develop a long-term retail partnership and take their business to the next level.

It services its stores from three distribution centres including one in Brownhills.

Flying lessons

YOUNGSTERS can learn about birds of prey and the food they eat in Pheassey on Friday 18.

The event is being held at the Collingwood Centre from 2pm to 4pm.

Book a place by calling Martin Harrison on 077910 7029.

Scourge of car cruisers to be targeted

POLICE officers are to investigate complaints of noisy car cruisers causing a late-night disturbance in Moxley by revving engines and horns.

Residents telephoned 999 and councillors after a group of motorists were spotted gathering on the car park at the Aldi Store and driving at speed on nearby roads at about midnight on Sunday January 26.

West Midland Police has confirmed that it had received phone calls, while Darlaston South ward councillor Chris Bott said she took at least six calls from angry residents.

He said: "People have been driving onto the Aldi car park then getting on the Black

Country Route. There is a lot of concern that local traffic is being put in danger. We had a problem some months ago and it went quiet, but has flared up again."

"We think if the store installs a barrier this would go a long way to resolving the problems."

Aldi spokesperson Liz Larvin said: "We have been made aware of the local issues surrounding the noise from the Aldi car park once the store has closed for trading. We will assist with the local residents and police patrol to help them alleviate the problems."

West Midland Police spokesman Brigg

Ford said: "We are aware of a handful of calls over issues with noise, of groups gathering, revving engines, people sounding horns and general anti-social behaviour."

"There were some complaints from residents in the area. We will follow them up and take statements."

"We are in the process of working in partnership with Walsall Council to obtain a high court injunction with regard to complaints of revving engines."

Legal action is being sought to tackle the problem of boy racers tearing through the streets at unofficial events, often breaching speed limits and putting lives at risk.

Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley are all bidding for legal powers which would see anyone breaching the injunction get fined or imprisoned for two years.

Problems have also been reported in the Springfield area of Wolverhampton; at the Merry Hill car park, at West Bromwich's Kenrick Estate; Hallens Drive in Wednesbury; and Aldridge Road in Walsall.

The High Court passed an injunction in December 2012 banning street racing in Cannock after it emerged operations tackling the problem was costing taxpayers £500 a week.

Slade's Noddy accepts council freedom move

SLADE star Noddy Holder will be given the Freedom of Walsall at a ceremony in June after he accepted the honour, it was revealed.

The celebrated musician and broadcaster will become only the 21st person to receive the privilege in Walsall since the honour was first handed out 109 years ago. The invitation was made on the 40th anniversary of the release of Merry Xmas Everybody.

Views are sought on the future of estate

RESIDENTS are being urged to attend a consultation event on the future of the site of a former tower block of flats.

The Yew Tree and Tame Bridge Community Centre will host the event on Saturday. It will discuss what residents hope can become of the former Churchill House, which many neighbours will know as 'the 21ers' - a 21-storey block of flats that once stood there.

The block on Plane Tree Road was razed to the ground years ago and is currently used as a car park for the Barnado's children's charity store on the Yew Tree Estate, as well as the nearby Yew Tree Primary School.

Open from 10am-2pm, the event will ask residents what they wish to see as the site is redeveloped. David Fisher, a Lib Dem campaigner on the Yew Tree Estate, said: "Local residents' inputs are required. A picnic area, extra play equipment or a skate park are just a few suggestions that have been mentioned."

The perennial festive favourite went to number one and stayed in the charts until February 1974.

Walsall Council revealed the singer has finally accepted the honour and an event will be held at the council house on June 24.

It comes as a paediatric consultant and charity fundraiser also received the honour at a special council meeting tomorrow last Thursday.

Professor Abdul Rashid Gatraud OBE will be recognised for his efforts over the last 30 years.

He has been instrumental in establishing various breakthroughs in medicine for children and holds the highest award of clinical excellence at the Manor Hospital.

Councillor Pete Smith, who led the campaign said: "I am sure that all the Walsall councillors, from across the political spectrum, who supported my notice of motion to council on November 18 to confer this honour on Noddy Holder, will be delighted that Noddy has accepted and will be coming to Walsall to receive his well-deserved honour."

Councillor Smith had argued: "The 67-year-old singer had also helped to boost the borough's tourism income through pilgrimages by Slade fans to Holder's former home on the Beechdale estate and other places associated with him.

The event gave students the chance to learn about the Holocaust and re-

Students help mark Holocaust Day



Front left, student governor Bradley Hesom is seen with the mayor Cllr Mohammad Nazir at the event

SILENCE fell on a college as a service was held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Mohammad Nazir, unveiled three electric candles at Walsall College during the event.

Dozens of students and visitors led the annual tribute and observed a one minute silence in the atrium of the college's Wisemore Campus during the ceremony, which was organised by the Walsall Multi Faith Forum.

The event gave students the chance to learn about the Holocaust and re-

member the millions of victims who lost their lives across Europe. They also signed a 'Respect Pledge', an initiative set up by the forum which aims to unite all the different faiths in the borough.

The service, which had a theme of 'journeys', started with a Hebrew prayer before four public services students read famous Martin Niemoller poem First They Came to the audience.

Sixth formers from the Mirus Academy then presented the Kindertrans-

port story and further presentations were made by representatives from the Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Jewish community. Birmingham-based Rabbi Arkush also attended the event.

Gail Houghton, student finance and support co-ordinator said: "Holocaust Memorial Day enables us to raise awareness of the process of genocide and remember past atrocities. The ceremony generated a lot of emotions and reflection and the one minute silence was a really poignant moment."

NEWS in brief

Pesto to open new restaurant

RESTAURANT group Pesto Italian is to open a new branch in the West Midlands; it has been announced.

The chain will open a new base in Sutton Coldfield in March creating 30 jobs. It has made a joint £550,000 investment with Stax Pubs and Bars to create the new Italian pub/restaurant at the former Reddicap Tavern on Hollyfield Road.

The pub is undergoing refurbishment to create the first Pesto restaurant in the West Midlands.

Health group to start campaign

AN organisation championing better health and social care services launches at the end of the month.

Healthwatch Sandwell will hold a launch event on February 26 from 9.30am-1pm. It will be hosted by the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich.

Places will be limited, organisers have warned, so all those interested are asked to contact Healthwatch Sandwell on 0121 569 7210 or visit www.healthwatchsandwell.co.uk.

Breakthrough on nuts allergy

CHILDREN can be protected from the dangers of peanut allergy by slowly building up their tolerance, research has shown.

After six months of the therapy, up to 90 per cent of allergic children taking part in a study could safely eat five peanuts a day. Affecting one in 50 children, the allergy can lead to anaphylactic shock – a potentially fatal reaction.

Spooky stories to be revealed

HOSTLY legends from the Black Country's history will be revealed during a talk.

The event at Walsall's Local History Centre in Essex Street on February 10 from 7.30pm will be led by author Ian Bott, who has written a series of books about the region's history. Admission is £2. Call 01922 721305.

Cathedral colour

WORCESTER Cathedral hosts an exhibition of colourful banners depicting choral evensong, until February 27. Sixteen banners, illustrated by artist Ruth Dent, will hang in the nave arches of the cathedral.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

MEANWHILE, Manchester United star Ashley Young has been handed a six-month diving ban. Sorry, I mean a driving ban. Whatever was I thinking of?

I'll leave it to others to comment on the rights and wrongs of railway union leader Bob Crow for masterminding a tube strike while sunning himself in Brazil while wearing a rather dubious pair of Bermuda shorts.

What will observe though is that a few years ago Bob was among the speakers at a day to mark the 100th anniversary of the Cradley chainmakers' strike. In the early 20th century, the mainly female workers of the Black Country chain industry lived in abject poverty, working back-breaking hours in squalid conditions for a pittance of pay, and it fell to Mary MacArthur, the daughter of a wealthy Scottish draper, to take on their oppressive bosses.

A aside from the fact that Bob turned what should have been a fascinating celebration of Black Country history into a bellicose political rally, he also throughout the duration of his long-winded speech, repeatedly referred to his heroine as 'Mary McCarthy'.

Considering he was such a big admirer, you might have thought he would have least got her name right.

A SIX-year-old boy has been suspended from school for taking a packet of Mini Cheddars in his lunch box. Riley Pearson's parents have now been summoned to the headmaster's study after the youngster was banned for not having a 'healthy and balanced' packed lunch.

Excuse me? Since when did a headmaster's remit extend to policing our dietary habits? If it were up to me, I would be telling him to ditch the Mini Cheddars and tuck into some good old pork scratchings like a proper Black Country mon, but each to their own, live and let live and all that. This really does take the biscuit.

BRITAIN'S most tattooed man is not a happy bunny after being refused a new passport having changed his name by deed poll. It seems officials did not consider 'King of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-It' to be a proper name, and suggested that he should continue calling himself Mathew Whelan instead.

Apparently, Body - as he is known to his friends - has spent £30,000 on making himself look about as ridiculous as is humanly possible. His face is now entirely covered with a green psychedelic pattern, apart from two small holes for his eyes. And he has a couple of clumps of hair on his head, which look like a pair of freshly grown spring onions.

Mr Art says he needs a passport as it is intention to work overseas. As what? A scarecrow?



Woolworths in High Street, Bilston, now an Argos



Poundland has replaced Walsall's Woolworths store



Site of the old Woolworths in Dudley, now Plaza Mall

Woolies filled but never replaced

How have the stores fared since they closed five years ago? **WILL ACKERMANN** has been finding out

IT WAS the store everybody knew and loved, a British institution dating back 100 years.

In its heyday, Woolworths was as much a feature of the UK high street as the pavements and lamp-posts themselves.

But it has now been five years since that fateful day when the nation's favourite retailer went bust and had to close its 807 stores, with the loss of more than 30,000 jobs. The news was mourned by shoppers far and wide, while retail analysts warned it was a sign of worse to come as consumers began tightening their purse strings.

Unfortunately, they were proved right as other high-street giants have fallen victim to the recession.

But now that the dust has settled since Woolworths entered administration in 2009, what has become of all its empty units? Sadly, across the country more than 100 of them remain vacant and a further 68 have been demolished.

Others, however, have become home to new shops, many of them bargain stores - showing how shoppers these days want to spend a penny, rather than a pound. Low price bargains are their unique selling points.

Budget supermarket Iceland has occupied the highest number of former Woolies premises nationally, with 59. Close behind with 57 is Willenhall-based Poundland, while in at third is 99p Stores, which has 47. Fourth is B&M Bargains, with 43.

But Will Roberts, of the British Retail Consortium, said stores catering for those with more expensive tastes are also sprouting up. He said: "Although a number of vacant stores have been taken over by discount traders in recent years, we



Discount UK Home Store has taken over the old Woolworths in Wolverhampton

are also seeing high end stores such as Hotel Chocolat opening up new premises." The BRC's latest figures from October show 13 per cent of commercial properties remain vacant in town and city centres in the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

However, many of the stores once adorned with Woolies' iconic red and white signs have been snapped up by other occupants.

Before appointing administrators, the company had outlets in Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Walsall, Bloxwich, Blackheath, Bearwood,

Wednesbury, Dudley, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Kidderminster, Stafford, Lichfield and Cannock.

Of those 15 premises, two are occupied by discount grocery and frozen food retailer Bargain Foods; two are run by rent-to-owner retailer BrightHouse, where customers can bag anything from a television set to a three-piece suite in weekly payments; two are Poundlands; with the remaining home to Discount UK, Argos, Heron Frozen Foods, Tesco, a Plaza Mall, a YMCA charity shop, Sports Direct and B&M Bargains.

The final Woolies staff barely had

time to pack up their belongings and leave the door, before some units were re-occupied, with others taking longer to attract new owners. Bosses at the Manders Centre, Wolverhampton struggled to fill the vacant unit left by Woolworths, and for three years it sat empty.

The centre itself was built in the 1960s, but Woolworths had already been trading long before it opened. The store became one of the biggest Woolworths branches in the West Midlands.

When it closed its doors, up to 40 workers lost their jobs. There was a glimmer of hope when businessman Tony Swannie, who runs the Aldridge based Plaza Malls, suggested he might open another Plaza Mall in the old store, but the deal fell through.

It was only in October 2012 that budget chain Discount UK stepped in to bring the shop back to life. The store, which sells items priced from 28p to £25, created 40 jobs when it took over the vacant unit.

It did not take quite as long for those in Wednesfield and Bilston to be filled. In September 2009, the unit in Bilston was taken over by catalogue shop Argos which had been relocated from 55-57 Church Street. Whereas in Wednesfield the discount grocery and frozen foods shop Bargain Foods took over the High Street unit.

In contrast to Wolverhampton, the high street locations of many of the Woolworths stores in Sandwell were quickly pounced upon. The first was in Blackheath, where Heron Frozen Foods transformed the High Street venue in May 2009.

In Bearwood, Tesco created 12 jobs when it opened an Express store in the former Woolworths in September 2009. In June of that year, Caversham Finance, which runs the rent-to-buy store BrightHouse, took over the Wednesfield's empty Woolworths shop on Market Place.

The Shop Direct Group bought the Woolworths and Ladybird brands, securing their futures online, but the high street will never look the same again.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

CONTROVERSIAL plans were revealed to convert a disused church in Wolverhampton into part of a giant supermarket.

Sainsbury's said the scheme for St George's Church would create 200 new jobs.

THE halfpenny coin was to be discontinued, Chancellor Nigel Lawson announced. Traders in the West Midlands showed little regret at its passing.

ENGINEERING workers leader Terry Duffy called for a 26-hour working week during a debate organised by Tettenhall Rotary Club. But he said it would do nothing to stop unemployment soaring to five or six million by the end of the 1980s.

1994

WOLVERHAMPTON Labour MP Dennis Turner called on all eight directors of the company which made Banks's beer to resign after they accepted huge pay increases. Mr Turner attacked David Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, for accepting a £9.12 pay rise at a time when the Government had been urging executives to keep a lid on their earnings.

KIDDERMINSTER Harryers proved the romance of the FA Cup was alive and well by knocking Preston North End out of the competition with a 1-0 win at Aggborough, securing a place in the Fifth Round.

2004

THE audience of the US Superbowl stared in disbelief as Justin Timberlake 'accidentally' tore Janet Jackson's dress during the half-time entertainment, exposing her breast. Jackson later admitted that the stunt had been planned in advanced, and apologised if she had offended anybody.

THE 500th free burglar alarm was installed in a crime-plagued area of Wolverhampton. Extra locks were also fitted to homes in All Saints, Blakenhall and Parkfields.

FORMER Wolves captain Geoff Thomas was said to be recovering well in hospital after receiving a bone marrow transplant with his nurse sister Kay Hill. The player, who lived in Bromsgrove, had been diagnosed with leukaemia the previous year and the operation was his only chance of a complete cure.

WOLVES manager Dave Jones was said to be furious after his son sold Kenny Miller's shirt from the victory over Manchester United to a dealer over the internet. He believed it was going to a charity, but the shirt was sold on eBay for £6,600.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Couple should not be scapegoats

WHILE I would find it hard to disagree with your leading article of January 16, it is based on a misconception about the Sutherlands' reason for taking a holiday in term time.

The cost of the holiday was not the issue. Mr and Mrs Sutherland could not get leave together during the school holidays. Since Mr Sutherland was employed by the Ministry of Defence, his work was presumably of some importance – but not important enough to protect him from a criminal record when he took holiday at a time acceptable to the ministry.

As a trade unionist, I wonder whether the National Association of Head Teachers is happy about its members acting as copper's narks, reporting the Sutherlands.

This seems especially reprehensible in this case, where Mr and Mrs Sutherland had booked their holiday with, at least, the payment of a deposit, nearly a year before when it was entirely legal to do so.

I now await with lively and gleeful anticipation the next example of a politician taking his or her spawn on holiday in term time.

A T HARRISON, Walsall

Vital help for carers is priority

AT some point in our lives, most of us have experienced, or will experience, what it is like to care for those close to us – a mother, a father, a sibling, a friend, or simply someone we hold dear.

This month we celebrate Dignity Action Day. With an astonishing 6.5 million carers living across the UK alone, I am incredibly proud to work for Vitalise, an amazing charity that for over 50 years has provided a respite break lifeline for people with disabilities and carers.

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So why not pledge to support Vitalise in 2014? No matter how you choose to do so, whether by making a donation, participating in one of our various fundraising events, or simply giving your time to volunteer, together we can change lives. Please call 0303 303 0147, or visit: www.vitalise.org.uk.

STEPHANIE STONE,
Vitalise

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Walsall
@expressandstar.co.uk

Keep quiet about the plight of OAPs

I RESPECT the sincerity of the ideas put forward by P Witton regarding the recent statement of austerity given by George Osborne, but would question the practicality of his suggestions.

He says that Mr Osborne would make £12 billion of welfare cuts to the under 25s. I understood it to be an overall reduction and not targeted at any particular section of the community.

Mr Witton's idea of re-nationalising privatised industries is fanciful. This country is over £1 trillion pounds in debt and it would be impossible to buy back industries at a realistic rate.

I do however agree with his idea about pensioners being included in the aus-

terity programme and cannot understand why elderly people think that they have had a raw deal.

We have had inflation based increases; we get £200 winter fuel allowance, although some recent letter contributors have suggested this figure is £100. We get free bus passes which allow a certain amount of train travel, free prescriptions, attendance allowance for long term incapacity and may also get free TV licences, free spectacles and free dental treatment. What more do we want?

I think we should adopt a lower profile in case the authorities start to take a closer look at our benefits.

R SLIMM, Dudley

LETTERS

No access to history

PROPOSALS to close Walsall Museum and Walsall Council's failure to deliver the world famous Staffordshire Hoard for public view herald the death knell of opportunity to access our history.

King Richard III's remains were rediscovered under a car park in Leicester. Alfred the Great's remains were reburied near an altar in Winchester. In the future, no-one will bother to search for the remains of the Walsall Council's cabinet members, if lost, after 14 years of racking and ruin.

Shortly, Walsall may have no exhibition halls to provide access to historical artefacts. The new art gallery focuses on commercial art and coffee outlets. The political and marketing men are running policies.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

Spare room tax mockery

WE are constantly being told the average person needs between six and a half and seven and a half hours sleep to function properly in our daily lives, as purported by health watchdogs. To achieve this, some couples have to sleep apart.

Some of these people are living in two bedroom, social housing, and are being charged for having a spare bedroom, even though they do not. Where will this end?

This Government tells us to sleep together, tells us when we can and cannot take our children on holiday. This is supposed to be a democratic country?

A PARKER, Willenhall

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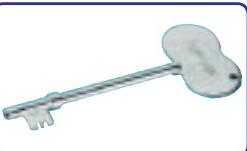
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NEWS

Taxpayer bill for legal fight on stalled casino

THOUSANDS of pounds of taxpayers' money was spent on a legal dispute between two casino operators for a scheme that never got off the ground, it has emerged.

Sandwell Council had to instruct legal advisers for the row which went all the way to the High Court and centred around whether the Rank Group, the parent company of Grosvenor Casinos, had a valid licence to open a new casino on Birchley Island, Oldbury.

The £6 million scheme, which it was claimed could have created 120 jobs, has now been put on hold after the authority itself decided to put a congestion-busting road there instead.

The authority's deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling now hopes it can recoup its costs so the taxpayer does not lose out in the long run.

He said: "We had to pay a total of £5,800 in employing a counsel and a solicitor to deal with this matter in the High Court and we were able to get a contribution from one of the companies involved towards the costs."

Transferred

Rank Group planned the casino on land next to the Birchley Island and slip-road for the M5 junction 2, as part of a £15m development.

But it led to a long battle in the courts because Clockfair Ltd, owners of the rival Shaftebury Casino in West Bromwich, objected to a licence being transferred from nearby Mecca Bingo site in Oldbury.

Both operators eventually reached an agreement, bringing the long-running dispute to an end, but both companies were later told the grassland was needed for the planned extension of the A4123, which is to cut through the roundabout.

The council is behind the plans to ease jams around the island, which is used by 92,000 drivers a day.

Pupils help raise the roof



Galton Valley Pupils at the development trust site being redeveloped PUPILS at a school in Smethwick have had a hands-on experience of building a new community centre they helped design.

Work on the Brasshouse Community Centre began in November and has already seen the foundations for a new garden installed and modifications made to its main hall begin.

A group of students from nearby Galton Valley Primary School, got

a chance to see how the new roof at the £780,000 revamp is being built by engineer, Mick Devaney.

They were also taught about the engineering industry and where able to have a go at some of the work themselves. Sue Howarth, chief executive of North Smethwick Development Trust said: "Today was about raising their awareness of the engineering industry."

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Walk boosts charity's coffers by £2,500



Organiser Dav Gill and Paula Ellison from Cancer Research, at the launch of the Family for Life sponsored walk

THE organiser of a charity walk which was hailed a success has handed over thousands of pounds to Cancer Research UK. The first Family for Life event saw more than 70 people take part in a 5K walk around Walsall Arboretum last September.

The event raised £2,500 and the money has now been handed to the charity by organiser Dav Gill, wants even more people to take part in this year's walk in September. Unlike Race for Life, which is exclusively for women – men and entire families were allowed to take part.

Trinket box workshops

A WORKSHOP at a Black Country museum will give people the chance to make a leather covered trinket box on Saturday. The session at Walsall Leather Museum is taking place from 10am to 4pm. Tickets are £25, including materials.

Call 01922 721153 to book a place or find out more in-

Father is badly hurt by attack in daylight

A FATHER was left with a badly swollen eye and facial injuries after being attacked in a street in broad daylight.

Jagger Singh was set upon in a suspected racially aggravated assault which saw him knocked to the ground, punched and kicked. The 60 year-old was taken to hospital with his injuries after the attack in Gipsy Lane, Willenhall, on Sunday January 26.

The father-of-two was due to go back to Walsall Manor Hospital for further tests once the severe swelling had gone down.

Two men came to the aid of Mr Singh who also suffered cuts to his face and bruising the side as his attacker then fled the scene.

Police are now investigating the alleged racially aggravated assault at just before 10.30am.

It comes just a month after the victim underwent a gall bladder operation. It is alleged Mr Singh was racially abused while he was being hurt.

His son Kashmere, aged 27, said: "He is a nice down-to-earth guy, I can't understand why anyone would want to do anything like this. Everyone who knows him can't believe this has happened. He got punched several times to the head and to the face."

"There were people who

came over and if it wasn't for them it could have been much worse.

"He is still in pain and it has affected him mentally as well. It has shocked us all,

"He is just waiting for all the swelling to go down and then he will have x-rays and scans."

It is believed the attacker made off in a black car following the incident.

The family are now asking for anyone with information to come forward and help prevent anyone else suffering such an experience.

Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett confirmed police were probing the alleged racially aggravated assault.

"We take hate crime very seriously and always investigate to its fullest," she said. "We are appealing for any witnesses to come forward and call the Bloxwich investigation team on 101."

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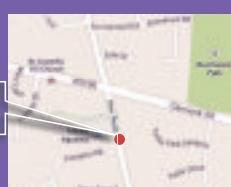
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Edmund Howdle

NEWS

Plans for tuition at ex-firm's premises

A DERELICT building is to be brought back to life as a tuition centre for up to 30 children, under new plans.

The site in Darlaston has been earmarked for educational purposes after being deemed no longer suitable for business use. The building in Salisbury Street was previously used for manufacturing but has now been left standing vacant and dilapidated.

Under the new proposals it would be used five days a week as a tuition centre for between 20 and 30 children between 5-7pm. It is subject to planning approval from Walsall Council but the application has been welcomed by a ward councillor in re-visiting the site.

The ground floor would be used for offices and staff room with the upstairs as class rooms.

It is anticipated the majority of children would be within walking distance of the site reducing any problems with parking. Darlaston South councillor Paul Bott said he would be in favour of the plans. "The more of these facilities the better," he said.

"It seems a positive use so I would welcome that rather than demolish it."

By Craig Hughes

A planning statement has been issued as part of the application which will go before councillors for a decision or be considered by officers under delegated powers.

It states: "The building has been used for manufacturing with ancillary offices in the past. At present the building is vacant and in a dilapidated condition.

"The building has been vacant for a few years, with very little interest to use it for manufacturing and offices; this is because the internal layout of the building is inflexible and cannot be utilised for modern offices or manufacturing without significant investment."

It is expected four part-time jobs will be created.

Divers' cold start to canals project



Diver Jonny Gooding, with back, from left, diver Geoff Knight, and Canal and River Trust waterways engineer Mike Banks

A TEAM of divers has been braving the freezing waters of Black Country canals to carry out vital inspections. The hardy scuba specialists have been working in the Birmingham Main Line Canal near Tipton to check out the condition of safety gates which protect homes and businesses.

Dean Davies, waterways manager for the Canal and River Trust, said: "These safety gates are a brilliant yet simple piece of engineering. They are extremely important, which is why we carry out a thorough inspection of them every year." Work is expected to last around two weeks.

Winner by a whisker

THE winners of a beard of the year contest run by a Black Country brewery will be announced on March 1. Fowles Brewing Company is holding the presentation at The Wheatsheaf pub in Birmingham Road, Walsall. There will also be an on the day competition on March 1 for the best 'made' beard, which can be made of anything.

ADVERTISEMENT

We're all prone to make New Year resolutions – eating healthily, walking more and shedding a few pounds to name a few. Many of those intentions involve lifestyle decisions and seizing the opportunity for change. A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true and none more so for the effervescent Ann Skitt of Willenhall, who made a New Year resolution to ditch her old, troublesome dentures and get a brand new smile. Is this the right time for you to do the same?

New Year...new smile

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport. Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself as popular hairdressers'

model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon whenever she fancies a new look.

"I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked. If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up the courage to see Steve.

I knew exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed.

"I told Steve I didn't want teeth like Cilla Black or Stacey Solomon, they would not look good on someone my age," she adds.

Husband Brian is full of praise – "It's taken years of her and the teeth are just perfect for her."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

A long-standing working relationship between Jon and Steve has fused two dental disciplines which continues to enjoy excellent clinical outcomes.

"Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too," says Ann.

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Ex-player Taylor told of cancer

A FORMER Walsall FC footballer has been diagnosed with cancer. Kris Taylor represented the Saddlers between 2003 and 2007 making more than 80 appearances for the club.

The 30-year-old was diagnosed on Friday 24 and then went on to score for his current team, Huddersfield Town, the next day. He decided to play for the Pitmen and scored in the 1-1 draw with Altrincham.

The father from Cannock started his career with Wolves before being signed by Manchester United as a 14-year-old for £200,000. Supporters at Huddersfield are planning a sixth minute applause and song in support of the player against Solihull on February 15.

Manager Rob Smith said: "It was an emotional goal, with him scoring that goal as well. We are right behind him and he will get through it." After the game the midfielder tweeted: "Well that was the hardest game of football I've ever played in. Since being hit with the bombshell the support has been overwhelming."

Pharmacy boost with HQ scheme

A NEW town centre headquarters will help the expansion of a Walsall-based pharmacy group, bosses have said.

Jhoots Pharmacy is looking to create the multi-million pound base on derelict land in Walsall town centre.

The 20,000 sq ft building for 100 staff, which will sit opposite the Walsall Housing Group main office could be ready by next summer, subject to planning consent.

Manjit Jhooty, managing director of Jhoots Pharmacy Group which is currently based in Church Street, Darlaston, said: "Given our plans for expanding our business into new areas - including telehealth, weight management training, and

export services - we need a new headquarters from which to drive our business forward.

"We were keen for our head office to remain in Walsall and the Hatherton Street site is ideal for our purposes. We look forward to working with our developer, Jessup Build Develop, to create this exciting new facility."

The new £3.2million development will only take up part of the derelict site and it is hoped other firms will now look at moving onto the land.

Regeneration chief, councillor Andrew Andrew, said: "We are pleased to have been able to play our part in bringing the parties together and also in funding the reclamation of the site to help make this development for Walsall happen."

All change to Range at Hooty's

PLANS to revamp a former discount supermarket which is being taken over by a home furnishing chain have been lodged.

Hooty's, which closed in December after 50 years of trading, will be taken over by The Range.

The store at Longacres Industrial Estate, Rose Hill, is due to open on April 11.

A planning application has been submitted to Walsall Council to create new entrances as well as the installation of security bollards. The site will also be repainted.

All 100 jobs at the store will be saved in the takeover, bosses have said.

All staff from Hooty's will be employed at the new store.

The Range has temporarily redeployed staff at neighbouring stores while the refit takes place.

A multi-million pound refurbishment has now started in Willenhall to transform the 70,000 sq ft site into a new store stocking more than 65,000 products with a garden centre and coffee shop.

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FOCUS ON PELSALL**Snow way school is set to shut**

A SCHOOL had prepared for snowy weather this week, by securing the use of a plough.

Staff at Barr Beacon School, in Aldridge, were hoping the machine would allow the school to keep open in the bad weather.

Headteacher Dame Maureen Brennan said: "We do everything we can to keep the school open."

"Of course, we can't guarantee that we will be able to do so all of the time."

"Even a snow plough can't clear six foot drifts like we had last year."

"But hopefully we will be able to tackle more snow than we have previously."

"If the worst does happen and we do have to close the school, we always notify parents as soon as possible, starting with a tweet very early in the morning, as well as a post on our website and then all the usual channels."

Young lack will to get fit

A fifth of 18 to 24-year-olds find the prospect of exercise boring, new figures show.

A survey of people in Birmingham also revealed that age group has the least motivation when it comes to exercise.

Rob Love of British Military Fitness which conducted the survey, said: "These results suggest worrying levels of demotivation towards exercise amongst younger people."

Food bank on the way to help needy in village

PELSALL will soon have its own food bank, after local churches joined forces with the Trussell Trust to provide the service, which is expected to open at the end of this month.

The North Walsall Food Bank will open at Pelsall Methodist Church Hall and will serve Pelsall, Shelfield, Walsall Wood, and Rushall. Valerie Asprey, project chairman, said the service was sorely needed.

by Simon Stone

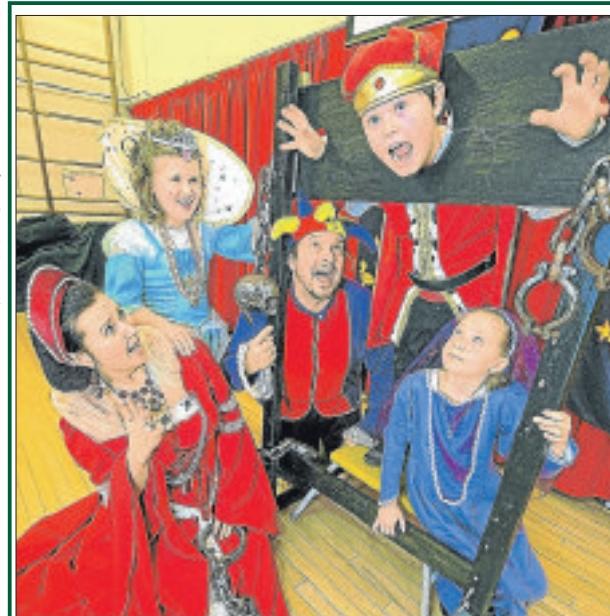
room from where the food bank will operate, and the churches have begun to collect food donations so that it has the two tons it needs in order to launch.

People in need will be referred to the food bank from agencies such as children's centres, social services or their family GP, and they will be able to collect a bag of provisions twice in a week, up to three times. Each foodbox contains a minimum of three days nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food. To donate or volunteer Rev Rob Farmer on 01922 692550.

Bobble day for charity

PEOPLE are asked to buy a special badge and support Age UK's Spread the Warmth campaign.

The charity's Bobble Day is on Friday and is aimed at highlighting the difficulties elderly people go through in the cold weather. Events will take place at Age UK's Wolverhampton branch shop in Bilston.



History Alive's Dawn and Russell Bark with Keaton Payne, Alice Guthrie and Rosie Haycock

Taking trip back Tudor rotten past

THE Tudor times were brought to life at a school in the Black Country where youngsters spent the day learning about crime and punishment of the past, enjoyed games and dancing.

Derby-based company Real History Alive visited St Michael's CE School, in Maple Road, Pelsall.

Pupils dressed up in Tudor costumes, pretended to joust by using poles and hobby horses and were told about the kind of medicine used to treat people in the bygone era.

Nicola Waite, Year 3 and 4 team leader, said: "They have been learning about the Tudor period during a history topic. To conclude this learning, they have taken part in an exciting Tudor day."

"They have experienced Tudor dancing and found out about crime and punishment. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it."

Appeal to help victims

VOLUNTEERS are being sought for charity Victim Support's witness and outreach service at West Midlands criminal courts.

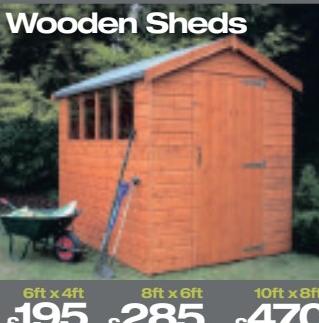
The service helps support adult and child witnesses through home visits as well as being present at trials.

The charity is on the lookout for more volunteers to work at least a day a week in the courts or two to four hours a week for the outreach service.

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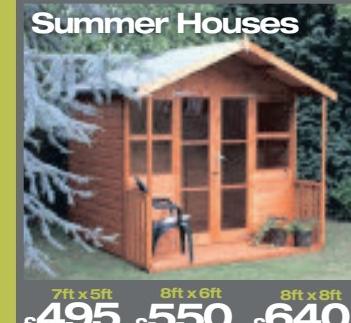
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NEWS

MP urges parents to raise fears on courses

Jobs placement boost



Maheen Yasmin with Bafina Akhter, administrative apprentice

UNEMPLOYED people were given the chance to take their first steps onto the career ladder with the help of a hospital trust. Almost 50 people turned out to an event to help them secure work experience with the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals (SWBH) NHS Trust.

In total 43 candidates attended the event. Of those who turned out 20 candidates will be selected to

undertake a work experience placement across different departments.

Health chiefs say the placements provide an ideal opportunity for people to become familiar with the routines, cultures and disciplines of a team environment, while developing new and essential skills. For details, please contact The Learning Works, Unett Street, Smethwick, B66 3SY or call 0121 507 5886.

AN MP has urged parents with children at a school that opted to scrap some GCSE courses to raise their concerns with its board of governors.

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz MP was responding to moves by Darlaston's Grace Academy to drop some subjects after some pupils had completed half the course of study, which sparked concerns from affected pupils and councillors.

The school off Herbert's Park Road said it made the changes to its GCSE programme in response to recent changes to the examination system announced by the Department for Education.

It said that the majority of Year 11 students would still be taking at least eight GCSEs, or equivalent and its priority would be to ensure that all of them had the best opportunity to achieve at least five A* to C grades at GCSE, including English and Maths.

Decisions

Miss Vaz said: "Students who have worked on a subject should be entitled to sit the exams if they wish to."

"Decisions as important as this should be taken in the best interests of the pupils' all round education and not only with a view to league tables after hearing the views of the pupils and parents."

Computing, engineering and business studies are vital subjects for which there is already a skills shortage in this country.

"Pupils should be encouraged to study and be examined in these subjects which will enhance their future job prospects."

"Any parents who have concerns should raise these with the Academy's governing body."

The move comes just months after the Grace Trust, which runs the school, unveiled a £26 million rebuild which saw new music and recording studios installed alongside specialist drama studios and a full-size basketball sports hall.

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NEWS**Hospital's A&E now looks for 10 nurses**

TEN nurses are being recruited at Walsall Manor Hospital's A&E as bosses battle to cut waiting times.

The hospital has struggled to meet Government targets for treating patients within four hours so chiefs have now launched a recruitment drive. The nurses are expected to start in the next two or three months and follows previous recruitment drives.

Last month the hospital unveiled plans to take on 40 nurses to slash the bill for temporary workers.

Recent figures revealed that in Walsall, 92.9 per cent of A&E patients were seen within four hours, down from 94.1 per cent compared to this time last year.

Emergency admissions have risen by 15 per cent over the last year and a report to an upcoming health scrutiny meeting in Walsall says high levels of admissions 'continue to create difficulties' and it remains a 'key challenge' for the NHS trust.

Richard Kirby, chief executive at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, urged people to think about whether they could be treated elsewhere before attending A&E.

by Adam Burling

He added: "We are disappointed to have narrowly missed the national A&E four hour wait target over the last three months.

"We are also continuing to see people visiting A&E when they could potentially have been seen or treated more appropriately elsewhere."

The A&E currently has six consultants and 11 'middle grade' doctors – with more being drafted in at busy times.

The investment comes despite the hospital needing to save up to £13m next year. It has been hit with extra demand on services which has contributed to record levels of expenditure on temporary workers. This hit £10m in six months.

Well-loved figure Graham dies at 75

Community campaigner Graham Taylor seen with one of the many awards he received for his work

A WELL-LOVED community campaigner from Walsall has died – the day after discovering he was suffering from cancer. Graham Taylor, who was 75, was admitted into Walsall Manor Hospital for routine blood tests and to be treated for low sodium levels in his blood.

But days later doctors broke the devastating news to him that he had cancer of the liver that had spread to his lungs. He died the next day. In a further devastating twist, his beloved wife Dot had been unable to visit him during the first three days in hospital because of an outbreak of norovirus.

Crash drivers are hurt

TWO motorists suffered injuries in a crash which partially blocked a road in the Black Country. Police were called to the smash in Bretell Lane, near the junction for Church Street, in Brierley Hill, last Thursday at 8.30am. The crash involved a Nissan Qashqai and a MG ZR.

The drivers were treated at the scene for minor injuries.

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Ex-medic amputee in bikes donation



John Brown, right, who was donating the bikes to Jeff Winders, Linden Allen and Martin Sankey for the charity

A FORMER motorcycle paramedic who was forced to give up his job after a road accident led to his leg being amputated has donated three of his motorbikes to a military charity. John Brown, of Erdington Road, Aldridge had worked for West Midlands Ambulance Service for around 20 years before he had a collision with a van in 2007.

The 52-year-old was forced to retire from his job on medical grounds but has since gotten a prosthetic leg and been able to ride bikes again. But he has donated three of his motorbikes to BLESMA, a charity helping limbless veterans.

Damage suspect is held

A 34-year-old Bentley man was arrested after a smoke canister was hurled into a kitchen. A mother and her four children, had to be rescued by firefighters. The woman was trapped upstairs and believed a fire was raging downstairs. The man was arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage but has been released on bail until next month.

Serial thief locked up after split with wife

A SERIAL burglar has been jailed for more than four years after admitting five break-ins - and asking for a further 26 crimes to be taken into account.

Drug addict James Kelly embarked on the crime spree over a period of more than three months after splitting from his wife, who was having an affair, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The split followed Kelly befriending another man in prison, who said he had nowhere to live after his release and moved in with the couple, and eventually an affair developed, the court heard. Kelly then left his home, took up his old drug habit and started raiding homes.

He pleaded guilty to five house burglaries, all around the Walsall area, during the hearing before asking for other matters to also be considered. These included 23 burglaries, one attempted burglary and two counts of handling stolen goods.

Kelly, 33, of no fixed abode, was jailed for 52 months.

The court was told many of the items from the five house burglaries, mainly jewellery and electronics,

by Lee Watton

had been recovered after Kelly himself took police to the shops where he had sold them. He targeted addresses in Borsby Lane, Aldridge, Kings Road, Linley Road and Penmore Grove, all Rushall and The Drive, in Walsall, during November and December last year.

The items taken totalled more than £7,000 in value.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "Kelly was arrested on December 3 not far away from where one of these burglaries had taken place. In interview he made multiple admissions and expressed remorse for what he had done."

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said: "He has a long-term addiction to class-A drugs."

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NEWS

Action on booze sales

TESTS are continuing on suspected counterfeit alcohol that was seized from shops.

More than 180 bottles of spirits suspected to be illegal were seized from six shops last month. The booze with a street value of £2,800 is believed to have had 'fake' brands including Teachers whisky and Bacardi Rum.

Public health chief Councillor Zahid Ali said: "Once we get the test results back we'll look to make a considered decision on any prosecutions or any other action that may follow."

£500,000 boost for sports set for launch

A NEW £500,000 sports programme will be rolled out to encourage people to get active. Walsall Council has received £234,000 from Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund to develop 50 community projects.

Under the Inspiring Generations programme, people across the borough will be able to play traditional sports such as football and cricket without forming a team.

By Lisa O'Brien

The programme runs for three years with the long term goal to make all the activities offered by the project self-sustainable.

Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council's portfolio holder for public health and protection, added: "If we can encourage people to become more active, the subsequent benefits to the overall health and well-being of Walsall people will be significant."

Further funding is being made available from the council, Public Health and BeActive Partnership.

Inspiring Generations is one of 36 projects nationally to receive a share of £5.9 million Sport England funding to support grassroots sports activity.

Anyone interested in playing or volunteering can register their details online or call 01922 658080. For more information, visit www.walsall.gov.uk/inspired_generations

It comes as the council is planning a £15million rebuild of outdated leisure centres in the borough.

The centres at Bloxwich and Oak Park have been lined up for replacement as they are outdated and need to be modernised.

"We might be 18 months on from the London 2012 Olympics, but people haven't forgotten about it and this programme aims to build upon the inspirational memories that still remain and encourage more people to get involved in sport."

The programme will be delivered by council departments, housing groups and community sports clubs.

The emphasis is on enjoyment and socialising rather than winning.

Drains scheme in response to gripes begins

WORK to clear blocked drains along a busy street where shoppers have been drenched by cars after downpours is being carried out.

Businesses in Stafford Street, Walsall, have welcomed efforts to maintain the drains and gullies following complaints of regular flooding. Traders said the road, a main thoroughfare between the town centre and Bloxwich, was looking much tidier after council contractors arrived to carry out the work.

It is among a number of borough roads that contractors for Walsall Council are clearing at weekends to avoid busy periods and

parked cars. The move follows Birchills councillor Tim Oliver requesting work be done at quiet periods.

Executive director at Walsall Council Jamie Morris said: "Stafford Street is one of a number of traffic sensitive roads where we need to avoid peak periods. The contractor has subsequently scheduled these for Sunday working which means that it is taking time to get around them all."

The council has also introduced a new system to clear the gullies routinely instead of waiting for reports of problems locations after it emerged that some were not cleaned for a considerable time.

MEMORY LANE

Cyril and his wife Eva who brought up Darrell from when he was a baby



The iconic Molineux Road Stand where Cyril bought Darrell his first season ticket £4 under the old clock



Wolves hat-trick hero Terry Wharton



A chance meeting at Molineux led to a friendship between Cyril and rock legend Robert Plant

Cyril inspired a lifelong devotion of Wanderers

by Peter Madeley

HIS devotion to the boys in old gold and black was second to none.

An old soldier born and bred in the Black Country with a love for proper pork scratchings, Banks's Mild and Pavarotti.

Cyril Yates died in March 2003, aged 84, after suffering with Alzheimer's disease for a number of years, but his memory still shines brightly in the heart of his 'son' Darrell.

"He was always a very proud man," said Darrell, a Wolves season ticket holder who used to write under the pseudonym JIWAL - John Ireland Whinge A Lot - in the fanzine *A Load Of Bull*. "Dad was a strict disciplinarian with a dry sense of humour."

Darrell was actually Cyril's grandson, but he believed him to be his father until the age of nine because Cyril and his wife Eva had looked after him from birth.

"Cyril raised me and in my eyes he will always be my dad," said Darrell, a finance manager for Poplars, Cannock. "And it is certainly down to him that I developed such

a passion for the Wolves!" Cyril was born in Dixon's Green, Dudley, in 1918. After Second World War service in the army he worked at Bean Factory, Tipton, and Ratcliff's, Eagle Lane, Great Bridge.

Darrell, 55, said Cyril played cricket for Dudley in the Birmingham Cricket League. But his main sporting love was Wolverhampton Wanderers - an obsession he passed on to a nine-year-old Darrell in 1966. "That was the year he took me to my first game," said Darrell, from Dudley.

"We beat Cardiff 7-1 and Terry Wharton scored a hat-trick. I suppose that's when I got the bug! The following season he bought me my first season ticket."

One early recollection involves a young Darrell approaching the legendary comedian Tommy Trinder, who was chairman of Fulham at the time. Darrell said: "My dad told me to go and get Trinder's autograph as he came out onto the car park of the old social club. But when I approached him he belittled 'out of my way, sonny!' and brushed

me aside like paper. "My dad gave him the biggest verbal volley of all time - I was really shocked at the colourful language - and I remember Trinder's trademark trilby hat falling off his head!"

"After that dad would turn off the TV whenever Trinder appeared on screen."

At the late 70s Cyril stopped going to games because of the hooliganism but he was persuaded to return for the fourth division play-off final against Aldershot in 1987. "He was hooked again," said father-of-four Darrell. Before the game he was approached by rock legend Robert Plant, who asked if the seats next to them were taken. It was the start of a lasting friendship.

Cyril died just two months before his beloved Wolves won the play-off final in Cardiff to book a return to the top flight of English football for the first time in 21 years. Darrell regularly visits his parents' grave at Tipton Cemetery to keep Cyril up to date about Wolves. Darrell said: "I always think of my prized possession growing up as being my season ticket in seat E4 under the old clock in the Molineux Street Stand."



Cyril did not see the funny side when comedian Tommy Trinder was rude to Darrell

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CHOICE



Marvin Humes

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm

Who knows why Kylie Minogue signed up for this slick talent search, but thank heavens she did, because together with charming Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson, she's been the short in the arm the show needed. And it perhaps goes without saying that Tom Jones and Will.i.am continue to deliver the goods, even if the latter's "dope" lingo is wearing thin. As ever, the judges will be giving their verdict on the potential stars with the golden tonsils, while staying immobile for those who don't rock their world. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the fifth set of Blind Auditions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast: **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. **(R) 12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 2.00** Live in Britain: Royal Union, Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **7.10** **The Voice UK:** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage for the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson looking to bolster their teams.

8.35 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins: Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two groups of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Garry Penson as host.

9.25 Casanova: The medics examine a teenager hurt in a mountain-bike accident – only to come across old injuries that suggest he might be a victim of abuse. Jamie decides to leave for Australia.

10.15 BBC News: Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day:** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield and Swansea City v Cardiff City at the Liberty Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Annie Oakley. (1935) **8.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening day of the Games from Russia. **11.00** See Hear. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **(R) 12.00** Great British Buffet. **1.00** The Winner's Story. (2008) **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the opening day of the Games in Russia. **3.00** Final Score. **5.10** Live Winter Olympics.

7.00 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games: Clare Balding introduces highlights from the opening day in Russia, where the first four gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 Torvill & Dean: The Perfect Dance: Documentary telling the story behind ice-dancing duo Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's gold medal-winning performance at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

9.00 Dad's Army: Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot, so going to trade and traps for a rat, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. **(R)**

9.30 Hanif Kureishi: Writers Are Trouble – A Culture Show: Alan Alda interviews screenwriter Hanif Kureishi about his new book, his latest film and placing his personal archive in the British Library.

10.05 Film: My Beautiful Laundrette. (1985) Comedy drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.

12.05 Film: The Mother. (2003) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.20** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.25** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.40** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.50** Cannimals. **(R) 7.00** Cannimals. **(R) 7.05** Cannimals. **(R) 7.10** Om Nom Stories. **(R) 7.15** Sooty. **(R) 7.30** Teletubbies. **7.35** News. **9.30** Dinner Date. **(R) 10.25** Murder. She Wrote. **(R) 10.25** You've Been Framed! **(R) 4.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.25** ITV News: Weather. **4.40** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. **5.00** Channel 4 Racing.

7.10 Splash! Dan Osborne, Anna Williamson, Austin Healey and Richard Whitehead perform two dives each in the second semi-final. **7.30** Kellie and Gabby Logan present.

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1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady: Australia. **(R) 3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Hoobs. **(R) 6.35** The Hoobs. **(R) 7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 9.30** Frasier. **(R) 10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** How I Met Your Mother. **11.25** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** The Simpsons. **(R) 12.30** Undercover Boss USA. **(R) 1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 4.25** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.00** Come Dine with Me. **(R) 5.35** Come Dine with Me. **(R)**

6.05 Come Dine with Me. **(R)**

6.35 Channel 4 News:

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11.40 Film: Jackie Brown. (1997) Crime drama, starring Pam Grier.

2.25 Southland. **(R) 3.10 Hollyoaks. **(R) 5.20** Deal or No Deal. **(R)****

CHANNEL 5

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7.30 NCIS: The discovery of a dead marine intelligence officer in a remote location sets the team off on a mission to find her killer in an investigation that may lead to a terrorist cell. **(R)**

8.30 5 News Weekend.

8.35 The NCIS Movie: Enemies: Feature-length episode. Ziva confronts her past when the team is sent to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. **(R)**

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12.05 SuperCasino: Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. **5.30** The Big Bang Theory. **(R) 4.25** Make It Big. **(R) 4.50** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.00** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.10** Hana's Helpline. **(R) 5.20** Angels of Jarm. **(R) 5.40** The Funky Valley Show. **(R) 5.40** Hana's Helpline. **(R)**

DIGITAL

2.00 Three Green Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film:** Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05 Family Guy**

BBC Four

7.00 Wild China 8.00 Pain, Pois & Poison: Search for Modern Medicines **9.00 Salamander 10.35 Pink Floyd:** Wish You Were Here **11.35 Pink Floyd:** A Delicate Sound of Fink

ITV2

3.00 Film: Dennis (1993) **4.55 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **6.50 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.00 The Shawshank Redemption (1994) 11.55 The Magaluf Weekender**

ITV3

3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot 4.40 Inspector Morse 7.00 Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Vera Drama

3.10 Cadfael 4.40 One Foot in the Grave 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small 7.00 Young James Herriot 8.20 Last of the Summer Wine 9.00 Waking the Dead 11.25 Sharpe

E4

4.00 Rules of Engagement 5.00 Hot Milk You're Mother 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05 Rude Tube:** Rude Zoo

Film 4

3.05 Jungle 2. Jungle (1997) 5.10 Love Year (2010) 7.05 Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 9.00 Slumdog Millionaire (2008) Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, with Dev Patel and Freida Pinto. With an introduction by Danny Boyle. **11.25 Trainspotting (1996)**

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Marvin Humes

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm

Who knows why Kylie Minogue signed up for this slick talent search, but thank heavens she did, because together with charming Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson, she's been the short in the arm the show needed. And it perhaps goes without saying that Tom Jones and Will.i.am continue to deliver the goods, even if the latter's "dope" lingo is wearing thin. As ever, the judges will be giving their verdict on the potential stars with the golden tonsils, while staying immobile for those who don't rock their world. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the fifth set of Blind Auditions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast: **10.00** Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Food & Drink. **(R) 12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R) 2.00** Live in Britain: Royal Union, Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **7.10** **The Voice UK:** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage for the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson looking to bolster their teams.

8.35 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins: Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two groups of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects, including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Garry Penson as host.

9.25 Casanova: The medics examine a teenager hurt in a mountain-bike accident – only to come across old injuries that suggest he might be a victim of abuse. Jamie decides to leave for Australia.

10.15 BBC News: Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day:** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield and Swansea City v Cardiff City at the Liberty Stadium; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Annie Oakley. (1935) **8.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening day of the Games from Russia. **11.00** See Hear. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. **(R) 12.00** Great British Buffet. **1.00** The Winner's Story. (2008) **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the opening day of the Games in Russia. **3.00** Final Score. **5.10** Live Winter Olympics.

7.00 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games: Clare Balding introduces highlights from the opening day in Russia, where the first four gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 Torvill & Dean: The Perfect Dance: Documentary telling the story behind ice-dancing duo Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's gold medal-winning performance at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo.

9.00 Dad's Army: Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot, so going to trade and traps for a rat, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. **(R)**

9.30 Hanif Kureishi: Writers Are Trouble – A Culture Show: Alan Alda interviews screenwriter Hanif Kureishi about his new book, his latest film and placing his personal archive in the British Library.

10.05 Film: My Beautiful Laundrette. (1985) Comedy drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis.

12.05 Film: The Mother. (2003) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. **(R) 6.25** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.40** Dino Dan. **(R) 6.50** Cannimals. **(R) 7.00** Cannimals. **(R) 7.10** Om Nom Stories. **(R) 7.15** Sooty. **(R) 7.30** Teletubbies. **7.35** News. **9.30** Dinner Date. **(R) 10.25** Murder. She Wrote. **(R) 10.25** You've Been Framed! **(R) 4.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.25** ITV News: Weather. **4.40** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. **5.00** Channel 4 Racing.

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DIGITAL

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.02.14

CHOICE



Derek Jacobi

Cadfael, 9pm
Dramatised from the novel of the late Ellis Peters, the 90 minute film begins with pilgrims being brought to Shrewsbury Abbey after they are suspected of being behind the discovery of a rotting corpse of an old man in a sack. Imprisoning them all within the Abbey walls, Cadfael renders the corpse down to its bones to discover the cause of murder. Among the resentful pilgrims are a couple of young thieves - Melangell (Vanity Fair's Natasha Little) and her brother Walter (Lee Ingleby).

6.00 Breakfast, 7.25 Match of the Day, (R) 8.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 10.00 The Big Questions.

BBC1

11.00 Sunday Politics, 12.15 MOTD2 Extra, 1.15 Bargain Hunt, (R) 1.45 The Great Rock Off, (R) 2.30 Live Stock Market Report, (R) 3.00 Songs of Praise, 5.35 BBC News, Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Fake or Fortune? Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor identify two world-famous art works collections that could be by 18th-century portrait artist Thomas Gainsborough. Last in the series.

7.00 Countryfile. A trip to the Lake District, where the show's first three titles were filmed. Matt Baker visits the beach the horses race across and Helen Skelton recreates the rock-climbing scene. Including Weather for the Week.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Jenny has an eventful few days, starting with a patient who as well as having herself to worry about is also struggling to cope with her agoraphobic mother.

9.00 The Musketeers. Aramis's loyalty to the Musketeer regiment is tested when he agrees to help an old friend uncover the truth behind a disastrous mission.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2, including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.25 Film: Brooklyn's Finest. (2009) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere.

1.30 Weatherview. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening session on day two of the Games. **11.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites, 12.30 Film:** The Gumball Rally. (1976) Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the second day from Russia. **4.30 Live Winter Olympics.** Concluding coverage.

7.10 Winter Olympics: Today at the Games. Clare Balding introduces highlights from day three of the Games, where eight gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 Top Gear. Richard Hammond gets behind the wheel of the Alfa Romeo 4C. James May puts a McLaren P1 hypercar to the test and Thor star Tom Hiddleston drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Campers' Den. A couple pitch their glamorous camping business, a mother-of-four from Shropshire has a new take on the coffee bag, and one entrepreneur attempts to graft on Den.

10.00 Alice in the Snow-Ski. A comic look at the news and action from the Winter Olympics. (R)

10.30 QI XL. With Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck and Sue Perkins. (R)

11.15 Royal Cousins at War. Part eight of the series. Impact the relationships between cousins Nicholas II of Russia, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and the UK's George V had on the outbreak of the First World War. (R)

12.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.10 Holby City, (R) 2.10 The Search for Alfrid the Great.** (R) **3.10** This is BBC Two. **5.00 Live Winter Olympics.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan, 6.10 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan, (R) 6.25 Dino Dan, (R) 6.40 Dino Dan, (R) 6.50 Canimals, (R) 7.00 Canimals, (R) 7.05 Canimals, (R) 7.10 Om Stories, (R) 7.15 Soothi, (R) 7.30 Scaredy Cat, (R) 7.45 She Wrote, (R) 10.20 Dickinson's Real Deal, (R) 11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 The Unforgettable Dudley Moore, (R) 11.50 Inside the National Trust, (R) 5.00 The Crocodile Hunter, (R) 5.15 Clash, (R) 5.30 Film: Thunderball, (1965) 5.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. The seven remaining skaters perform to songs from 1989 to the 90s, the show marks the 30th anniversary of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean winning gold at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. The results and the 3.00pm show.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Olympic rowing hero Steve Redgrave and Emma Raducanu's Natalie Anderson.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate comes to an end as the last star skater is eliminated.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. The men of Selfridge's clamour to do their bit for the war effort.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Sharon's estranged husband asks for a divorce. (R)

10.45 Britain's Own Life Stories: Tony Blackburn. (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 13th round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 The Store, (R) 2.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, (R) 4.05 ITV Nightscreen, 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs, (R) 6.40 The Hoobs, (R) 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 7.30 Fraser, (R) 7.55 Frasier, (R) 8.25 The Taste, (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch, 12.30 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 1.30 The Met Your Mother, (R) 1.55 How I Met Your Mother, 2.25 The Simpsons, (R) 2.55 The Simpsons, (R) 3.30 Film: Three Men and a Baby, (1987) 5.30 Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver creates a Sunday roast and curry fusion, Jimmy Doherty builds a DIY smoker and former Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles shares his favourite dish, a New York-style pizza. (R)

8.00 Scandinavia. In Denmark, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks with Rene Redzepi, owner of a Michelin-starred restaurant Noma, and meets actor Soren Malling, star of The Killing and Borgen.

9.00 Babylon. Police comedy drama, directed by Danny Boyle. Violence erupts across the city as the Met chief tries to revamp the force's public image. Starring James Nesbitt.

10.35 Film: The Bank Job. (2008) A London bank robber accidentally steals secret files which the government and security services want buried. Fact-based thriller, starring Jason Statham and Sarah Burrows.

12.40 The Tigerland. (2000) 2.20 Boss, 3.20 Abduction, (R) 3.30 Eating for Two, (R) 3.35 Location, Location, Location, (R) 4.35 Supernanny US, (R) 5.15 River Cottage Bites, (R) 5.30 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig, 6.45 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 6.15 Billie and the Flowerots, (R) 6.35 The Mr Men Show, (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet, (R) 7.00 Milkshake! Bop Box, (R) 7.10 Batman in Python, (R) 7.30 Make Way for Noddy, (R) 7.35 Milkshake! Monkey, (R) 7.40 City of Friends, (R) 7.55 Little Princess, (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Cotton, (R) 8.20 The Legend of the Fire Shuttle, (R) 8.35 The Magaluf Weekend, (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear, (R) 8.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm, (R) 9.30 LazyTown, (R) 10.00 Power Rangers, (R) 10.15 Power Rangers: Megazord, (R) 11.10 The Hotel Inspector, (R) 12.05 Ice Road Truckers, (R) 1.05 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild, (R) 2.05 Police Interceptors, (R) 3.00 The Devil's Double, (R) 3.30 The Lost, (R) 4.05 Film: Planet of the Apes, (2001)

6.45 Film: Planet of the Apes. (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet ruled by intelligent apes who capture and enslave him. Tim Burton's sci-fi remake, starring Matt Wahlberg.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: The Expendables. (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a Sci-Fi Action movie, directed and starring Sylvester Stallone.

10.55 Film: Full Metal Jacket. (1987) Vietnam War drama, starring Matthew Modine.

DIGITAL

BBC Three

- 7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 7.05 Pop's Greatest Dance Craze 7.35 The Voice UK 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Family Guy 10.45 Uncle

BBC Four

- 7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe 8.00 Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes 8.30 Steel Shutter 9.00 Film: Mission 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Film: Tombow (2011) 11.50 Arena: The Everly Brothers

ITV2

- 2.40 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2009) 4.25 Film: Goldengate, (R) 5.00 Film: Step Up 3D (2006) 6.00 Film: Rumor Has It (2005) 8.00 Best of You've Been Framed! 9.00 Film: The Magaluf Weekender 10.00 Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001)

ITV3

- 2.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.55 Leverage 5.50 Agatha Christie's Point of 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.00 Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973)

Drama

- 2.30 Catherine Cookson's The Moth 5.30 A Bit of a Do 6.40 Monarch of the Glen 7.50 Lovejoy 9.00 Cadfael 10.00 Jonathan Creek 11.30 A Bit of a Do

E4

- 4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 5.00 The Tomorrow People 6.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) 10.25 Film: The Running Man (2010)

Film4

- 3.20 The Towering Inferno (1974) 6.25 A Knight's Tale (2001) 9.00 Black Swan (2010) 11.05 Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (2008)

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Murder Mystery Weekend
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Mersey Cruise Beatles Tour & Chester
2 days £69.95

Bath & Dean Forest Steam
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Torquay £99.95

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Bournemouth £129.95
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Weston-super-Mare £119.95
Torquay £119.95
Porthcawl & Brean Sands £119.95
Sand Bay & Bath £119.95
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Death Race, Channel 5, 11pm

Jensen Ackles is framed for the murder of his wife and sent to Terminal Island Prison, a facility that broadcasts the highly profitable Death Race, a high-octane event where convicts battle to the death in customised cars. When a popular driver dies, crooked prison warden Hennessey persuades Ackles to take his place, claiming he will be released if he is victorious. Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham and Joan Allen. (2008)

TUESDAY

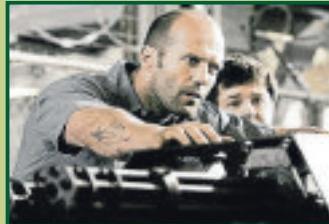
The Hoax, BBC1, 11.35pm

Drama set in the 1970s, based on the true story of Clifford Irving, a struggling author who managed to convince a publisher that business magnate Howard Hughes had personally hired him as a biographer. Banking on the reclusive billionaire being too publicity shy to contradict his claims, Irving offered the rights to the book for \$1 million. But keeping up the deception demanded an ever more complex web of lies. With Richard Gere and Marcia Gay Harden. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Dangerous Attraction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman is driven into seclusion out of fear of a stalker, but resolves to fight back when he threatens those closest to her. Thriller, with Amanda Righetti and Catherine Hicks. (2012)



Death Race, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

I Love You Phillip Morris, Channel 4, 12.05am

A gay man keeps his criminal career and his sexuality a secret from his family, until he ends up in prison for fraud. While serving his sentence, he falls madly in love with a fellow convict and becomes determined to secure their future together – even if it involves a great deal of criminal activity and several prison breaks. Fact-based romantic comedy drama, with Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. (2009)

THURSDAY

Like Mother, Like Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searching for her missing daughter receives help from a professor – but does not realise he murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford. (2007)

FRIDAY

Before Sunrise, BBC2, 11.05pm

American tourist Jesse and French student Celine meet by chance on a train travelling to Vienna. The two strangers form a close connection almost instantly, and spend the day together in the city, discussing their hopes and dreams. However, their romance seems likely to only last a day, as Jesse is due to fly back home. Richard Linklater's romantic drama, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy. (1995)

Pick of the Week

Visionary Liz fails to see the upcoming trouble

Director Danny Boyle won critical acclaim for movies such as Trainspotting and Slumdog Millionaire, and unofficial national treasure status for overseeing the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony.

But in the unlikely event that he still feels a little underappreciated, maybe he should listen to what Brit Marling has to say about him.

The actress, whose credits include The East and Arbitrage, gushes: "Danny, you feel, has the kind of curious mind and unstoppable heart that are capable of anything – exploring a distant galaxy and building a new world from scratch there for instance."

"So it's lucky for us he chose to be a storyteller in a time where we need them so desperately – to make sense of the world we are living in and how to navigate it."

Given that glowing endorsement, it's no surprise that Marling signed on for Boyle's latest project, police comedy-drama Babylon.

Written by Peep Show and Fresh Meat veterans Sam Bain and Jesse

Armstrong (Marling has high praise for them as well – "such great writers it's borderline dangerous"), it boasts James Nesbitt at the head of an impressive cast as Chief Constable Richard Miller, who realises that the London police force could do with a bit of a public image revamp.

And he thinks American new-media visionary Liz Garvey (Marling) is just the woman to do it. She believes that in an era of rolling news, social media and members of the public potentially firing every bullet in their phones, it's more important than ever for the cops to be open and transparent, an idea that Marling found intriguing.

"Danny and I spoke on the phone and I loved how he saw the story developing, and the questions he wanted to ask about how technology and the transparency it creates is changing all of our lives. How does law enforcement change when a criminal is using Twitter or Instagram? What's the future of the public's involvement in law enforcement as a result?"

"And how do you create a career girl that isn't a typical ball-buster but is multi-faceted?"

Luckily, she thinks the writers cracked it. "I think [Liz] is a very interesting person, because she's been successful very young, and she's used to getting her way and things moving quickly. And I think she suddenly moves into this new job and it's not quite what she expected, and there's all sorts of political intrigue, and certain people who don't want her there, and she realises that changing things is going to be much more difficult than she thought."

It's not just her new colleagues putting her theories to the test though, as London is rocked by outbreaks of violence. As visions of modern Britain go, it may not be as uplifting as the Queen jumping out of a plane with James Bond, but it hasn't put American star Marling off.

She's as enthusiastic about her co-stars (including Jill Halfpenny, Paterson Joseph, Bertie Carvel and Adam Deacon) and the city itself as she is about Boyle.

"I think I'm turning into something of an addict, I just want to be in London all the time. I'll just come over here to make anything people will hire me for."



Brit Marling stars in Babylon, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring Channel 5, 9pm

What a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, Jim Davidson was fending off police allegations, but he's won so much public favour since then that he was recently crowned winner of the latest edition of Celebrity Big Brother. While he might have had his fair share of arguments in the house, what you see is definitely what you get with Jim – an opinionated, honest man with whom you'll always know where you stand. This profile of the comedian charts his rise to fame after appearing on talent show New Faces in 1976, before going on to become a household name hosting BBC favourites Big Break and The Generation Game.

TUESDAY

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris's Final Answer

ITV, 8pm

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire is such a TV institution, it's arguably launched a few quiz questions of its own, including "who was the first person to win a million?" (Answer: future Egghead Judith Keppel.) But which contestants and moments stand out for host Chris Tarrant? Well, we're about to find out, as following the two celebrity specials that brought down the curtain on the hugely successful series, he looks back over nearly 16 years of 'Millionaire'. As you'd expect, Charles Ingram, the so-called 'Coughing Major', who was accused of cheating his way to the top prize, features – which should also remind us that

at its height, WWTBAM was so popular, even a documentary about Ingram was watched by an impressive 17 million viewers.

Inside the Animal Mind
BBC2, 9pm

Here's a bit of good news for anyone who saw school or the office primarily as a place to meet your friends and have a laugh – the most intelligent animals on the planet are also the most social. In the last in this fascinating series, Chris Packham finds out why that is by studying one of the cleverest animals of all – the dolphin. He joins them for a swim, explores their language and also sees how they can recognise themselves in the mirror, suggesting they don't all look alike after all. Chris also learns more about how elephants mourn their dead, and why just because animals are social, it doesn't mean they all get along, as chimps can be more than a little two-faced.

WEDNESDAY
Line of Duty
BBC2, 9pm

Fans of this series could be forgiven for thinking it was a one-hit wonder – it's almost two years since the first run introduced viewers to straight-arrow cop Steve Arnott and his colleagues. But series writer and creator Jed Mercurio was clearly taking his time in crafting what promises to be a nail-biting follow-up. This time, Arnott and co will be

investigating DI Lindsay Denton (Keeley Hawes), who is the sole survivor of a police convoy ambushed while escorting a protected witness. Arnott immediately suspect she tipped the perpetrators off – but proving it may be difficult. Martin Compston, Vicky McClure and Adrian Dunbar are among those returning to the drama, while Call the Midwife's Jessica Raine joins the cast as a rookie detective constable.

Suspects

Channel 5, 10pm

What separates this from all the other procedural offerings out there is the fact it's shot in a fly-on-the-wall documentary style. The cast, which includes Fay Ripley (Cold Feet), Damien Molony (Ripper Street) and Clare-Hope Ashitey (Children of Men), created their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. Set in London, each episode is a self-contained story beginning with a news report. We then follow the three detectives as they investigate the case. The series opens with the abduction of two-year-old Hope Wilkins. Her dysfunctional family are initially marked as suspects, until a convicted child killer is connected to the case.



Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Kidnapping of Shergar
Channel 5, 8pm

The mystery of Lord Lucan's disappearance in 1974, and the fate of champion racehorse Shergar have captured the public's imagination for decades. A few months after the former case was addressed in an ITV drama, we now get this equine detective story. The 1981 Derby winner was kidnapped from his home at County Kildare's Ballymany Stud in February 1983 by a masked gang. They held staff at gunpoint and Shergar was taken away in a horse trailer and never seen again. Here film-makers chat to key witnesses about the theft, and paint a picture of one of the most audacious thefts in history.

FRIDAY
Student Nurses: Bedpans and Bandages
ITV, 8pm

Across the country, a new generation of nurses are training up to take on the responsibility of a nation's health and well-being. It's a lot of pressure, and with ever-greater demands since the early days of the NHS, it's harder to qualify now than ever before. So this documentary will make for very interesting viewing indeed, as cameras follow trainee nurses in Birmingham and Manchester, showing the challenges they face on a daily basis as they juggle academic study with their personal life and work on the wards. In the first instalment, 24-year-old student Alastair discusses being one of a growing number of men taking up a career in nursing, while 21-year-old Helen nears the end of her three-year degree to become a children's nurse.

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Property

Extended detached has lots of potential



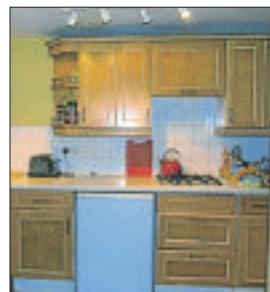
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FEATURED PROPERTY

WILLENHALL
CRAB LANE

- Exceptional traditional detached on premier road
 - Drawing room • Superb conservatory • Dining room
 - Breakfast kitchen and utility • Energy Rating D
 - 3 bedrooms and loft room/bedroom 4 • Luxury bathroom & En-suite
 - Garage and large driveway • Extensive rear garden
- £369,950

MANAGER'S CHOICE

WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD

- Superbly Appointed Modern Detached Property
 - Spacious Lounge with Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen • Three Bedrooms
 - Bathroom • En-Suite Shower Room • Double Glazing
 - Gas Central Heating • Sitting Room/Dining Room
 - Rear Gardens • Driveway to the Fore • Energy Rating 'C'
- £169,000

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

WILLENHALL
SANDRINGHAM DRIVE

- Traditional style semi detached • Popular location
 - Lounge and dining room • Kitchen
 - Three bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy rating D
 - Majority double glazing • Part gas central heating
 - Driveway • Rear gardens • No chain
- £132,500

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151

WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD

- Exceptional Executive Semi-Detached • Superb Putting C
- Spacious Lounge • Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating • Garage
- Rear Gardens • Viewing Highly Recommended

OFFERS OVER £240,000

COPPICE FARM
HILLBURY DRIVE

- Extended Ground Floor • Large Living Room • Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge • Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating • Garage
- Rear Gardens • Driveway Highly Recommended

£156,950

WILLENHALL
ENSBY CLOSE (OFF STROUD AVENUE)

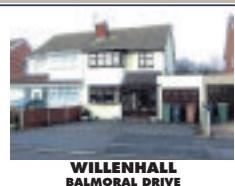
- Well Presented Extended Semi-Detached
- Lounge & Dining Room • Conservatory • Utility
- Three Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room • Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Garden

£147,500

PORTOBELLO
WALKE ROAD

- Extended Impressive Semi-Detached
- Lounge and Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • En-Suite Shower Room • Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Garden • Energy Rating D

£146,000

WILLENHALL
BALMORAL DRIVE

- Traditional semi detached • Popular location
- Lounge and dining room • Kitchen
- Three bedrooms (currently used as 2) • Bathroom • Gas CH
- Energy rating D • Garage and driveway • Majority double glazing
- Delightful landscaped rear garden

£139,950

WOODLANDS
MYRTLE CLOSE

- Much improved modern style semi detached • Very popular location
- Three bedrooms • Conservatory • Fitted Kitchen
- Three bedrooms • Bathroom • Energy Rating D
- Driveway and garage • Pleasant front and rear gardens
- Gas central heating • Double glazing

£139,950

WILLENHALL
TRENTHAM AVENUE

- Extended End Terrace Property • Energy Rating E
- Spacious Lounge • Large Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Driveway • Excellent Size Rear Gardens

£137,000

WILLENHALL
BECCLES DRIVE

- Improved Modern Style Semi-Detached • Popular Location
- Lounge with Feature Fire • Large Dining Room • Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms • Bathrooms • En-Suite Shower Room
- Driveway • Front & Rear Gardens • Garage and driveway
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System

OFFERS OVER £135,000

SHORT HEATH
WALKERS FOLD

- Modern Mid Terrace in Popular Location
- Lounge with Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Driveway • Rear Gardens • Energy rating C

£109,950

WILLENHALL
RAVENSBOURNE GROVE

- Modern style mid terrace property • No Chain
- Lounge • Dining Room • Energy Rating C
- Three Bedrooms • Bathrooms • Double Glazing
- Gas central heating • Popular cul-de-sac location
- Allocated parking spaces • Rear garden

£99,950

NEW INVENTION
HILTON ROAD

- Beautifully presented detached • Exclusive private driveway location
- Spacious lounge • Stunning family room/kitchen • Utility & WC
- Three excellent double bedrooms • Luxury family bathroom
- Impressive en-suite shower room • Gas CH & Double Glazing
- Superb landscaped gardens • Garage & Drive • Energy Rating E

£189,950

WILLENHALL
ADA WRIGHTON CLOSE

- Superb Link Detached Property • Popular Cul-De-Sac Location
- Spacious Lounge • Dining Room • Conservatory • Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms • Re-Fitted Bathrooms • Energy Rating E
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Gardens

£162,000

WILLENHALL
LUCKNOW ROAD

- Well appointed modern style link detached • Energy Rating E
- Three good size bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Spacious lounge • Dining room • Impressive conservatory
- Refitted kitchen • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Superb well established rear garden • Garage and driveway

£149,950

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ESTATE AGENTS

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NEW DEVELOPMENT

SHORT HEATH
POOLE'S LANE

- Brand New Detached Residence
- Lounge/dining room, Breakfast kitchen
- Four Good Size Bedrooms • Bathroom & En-suite
- Energy TBC • Gas Central Heating, Double glazing
- Garage, Drive • Rear Gardens

£199,950

FEATURED PROPERTY

COPPIE FARM
SANDALWOOD CLOSE

- Excellent extended modern link detached property
- Spacious lounge and dining room • Refitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms • Refitted bathroom
- Rear garden • Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Garage and driveway • No chain • Energy Rating D

£175,000

NEW INSTRUCTION

SUMMER HAYES
EDINBURGH DRIVE

- Extended modern semi-detached bungalow • Energy Rating TBC
- Popular cul-de-sac location • Two bedrooms
- Kitchen Through Lounge • Dining room
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Large driveway • Pleasant front and rear gardens • No chain

£145,000

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 631151

WILLENHALL
CLOTHIER STREET

- Newly built three storey detached
- Energy Rating TBC
- Lounge with dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Four bedrooms Bathroom with shower room
- Gas central heating • Double glazing
- Rear garden
- No chain
- Driveway

£149,950

LEAMORE
HARDEN ROAD

- Pleasantly Appointed Traditional Semi-Detached • Energy Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms & Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Block Paved Driveway • Double glazing

£119,950

WILLENHALL
LODGE STREET

- End terrace property • Energy Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms • Conservatory
- Ground Floor bathroom and separate wc
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Rear garden with useful outbuilding

£105,000

WILLENHALL
HOWE CRESCENT

- End Terrace Property
- No Chain
- Energy rating TBC
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Utility
- Two Bedrooms (originally three bedrooms)
- Bathroom
- Large Rear Gardens

£95,000

BENTLEY
SILVERSTONE CLOSE

- Detached Property in Cul De Sac Location • No Upward Chain
- Four Bedrooms • Double Glazing • Energy Rating D
- Three Reception Rooms • Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Garden

£154,950

WILLENHALL
STROUD AVENUE

- Superb Completely Renovated Modern style semi detached
- Spacious Lounge • Impressive Refitted Kitchen
- Three BedRooms • Double Glazing • Gas CH
- Garage and driveway • Rear garden • No chain

£142,500

PORTOBELLO
EVANS STREET

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three BedRooms
- Lounge • Refitted Dining Kitchen
- Refitted Bathrooms • Gardens
- Drive • No Chain • Gas CH • Double Glaz • Energy D'

£105,000

WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD

- Spacious Ground Floor • Energy Rating D
- Popular Development • Large Lounge & Dining Area • Fitted Kitchen
- Two BedRooms, with Fitted Wardrobes • Bathroom
- Allocated Parking • Double Glazing • Central Heating
- Energy Rating B

WILLENHALL
HARPER STREET

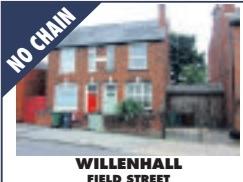
- Superb End Town House • Popular Location • No Chain
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen • Double Glazing • Energy Rating D'
- Two Double BedRooms • Bathrooms
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • Allocated Parking

£99,500

BEACON ESTATE
MOORE ROAD

- Traditional style semi-detached property in popular estate
- Lounge and dining room • Kitchen • Living room and lobby with wc
- Two double bedRooms • Shower room
- Double glazing • Gas central heating
- Rear gardens • No chain • Energy tbc

£95,000

WILLENHALL
FIELD STREET

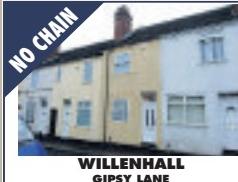
- Renovated Semi-Detached • Convenient Location
- Lounge & Dining Room • Impressive Refitted Kitchen
- Three BedRooms • Double Glazing • Energy Rating E
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing • Energy rating E
- Pleasant Rear Gardens • No Upward Chain

£93,000

WILLENHALL
VICTORIA STREET

- Much Improved Period Mid Terrace
- Three BedRooms
- Lounge • Kitchen • Ground Floor Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas CH
- No Chain • Energy D'

£87,500

WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property • No Upward Chain
- Lounge • Dining Room • Kitchen • Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two BedRooms • Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing • Ground Floor wc
- Rear Gardens • Energy Rating E

£82,000

WILLENHALL
CLEVELAND CLOSE

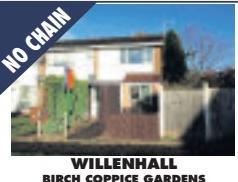
- Semi-detached property
- Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Three BedRooms
- Double Glazing • Ground Floor wc
- Rear gardens • No chain • Energy rating E

£79,950

BENTLEY
POPLAR AVENUE

- Ground Floor Maisonette • Spacious Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double BedRooms • Large Bathroom
- Lounge • Dining Room • Conservatory
- Energy Rating D'
- Off Road Parking • Pleasant Rear Gardens

£70,000 offers over

WILLENHALL
BIRCH COPPIE GARDENS

- First floor maisonette in popular location • Lounge • Kitchen
- Double bedroom with built-in wardrobe • Bathroom with white suite
- Double glazing • Garage • No chain
- Energy Rating F

£55,000

WILLENHALL
YALE ROAD

- Superior Detached Family Residence • No Chain
- Large Lounge • Dining Room • Impressive Breakfast Kitchen
- Four BedRooms • 2 En-Suites • Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating • Energy Rating C'
- Garage • Driveway • Rear Gardens

£247,950

COPPIE FARM
COTSWOLD GROVE

- Improved Extended Semi-Detached Property • No Chain
- Lounge & Dining Room • Conservatory • Breakfast Kitchen • Utility
- Three BedRooms • Bathroom • En-Suite
- Driveway • Gardens • Energy Rating D
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing

£159,950

WILLENHALL
STONEHOUSE AVENUE

- Impressive Improved Modern Style Detached Property
- Popular Cul-De-Sac Location • Energy Rating E'
- Lounge • Dining Room • Conservatory • Fitted Kitchen
- Three BedRooms • Bathroom
- Garage • Front & Rear gardens • No Chain

£150,000

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NEW £790 pcm



Wisteria Way

- A modern 2 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and Garage

NEW £575 pcm



Sycamore road

- A well presented 3 bed semi-detached
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway and rear garden

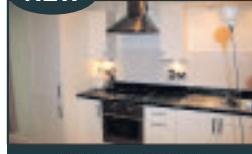
NEW £560 pcm



Lodge Road

- A Traditional 3 bed semi detached
- 1 spacious living room with dining area
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway, Loft conversion and DSS accepted

NEW £450 pcm



Smiths Flour Mill

- A modern 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- Open planned lounge and kitchen
- Fitted kitchen with integral appliances
- Stylish bathroom with shower
- Secure allocated parking
- Viewing essential

NEW £350 pcm



Thomas Mews

- A re-furnished 1 bed apartment
- 1 spacious living room
- Modern fitted kitchen with light wooden units
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Town centre location

NEW £350 pcm



The Shambles

- A recently re-furnished 1 bed apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower cubicle
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£595 pcm



Poppy Drive

- A modern 3 bed mid terrace
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and integral garage

£575 pcm



Slaney Road

- A modernised 4 bed mid terrace
- Through lounge and rear reception
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central heating throughout
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

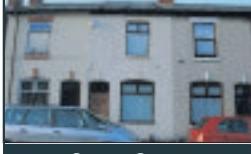
£500 pcm



Temple Square

- A traditional 3 bed semi detached
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom and WC
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£500 pcm



Gower Street

- A superb 3 bed mid terrace property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

£450 pcm



Tame Street East

- A well presented 2 bed semi detached
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Driveway EPC rating D

£450 pcm



Darlaston Road

- A traditional 3 bed semi-detached
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted

£435 pcm



West Bromwich Road

- A 2 bed end terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- DSS accepted

£400 pcm



Broadstone Avenue,

- A re-furnished 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- A superb open planned lounge/kitchen
- New fitted kitchen with cooker
- Bathroom with shower over bath
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Neutral decor and laminate flooring

£395 pcm



Thornbury Road

- A modern 1 bed 2nd floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- Allocated parking space

£395 pcm



Tudor House

- A 1 Bed first floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Town centre location
- Dss accepted EPC rating C

£380 pcm



Wolverhampton Street

- A splendid 1 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Double Glazing throughout
- DSS accepted EPC rating E

380 pcm



Treetops Drive

- A fully re-furnished 1 bed maisonette
- Open planned lounge and kitchen area
- Brand new kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with walk in shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Garage

£350 pcm



Bradford Street

- A refurbished studio apartment
- A spacious lounge/bedroom area
- Brand new fitted kitchen with cooker
- Modern bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Town centre location

£325 pcm



Ablewell Street, Walsall

- A 1 bed 2nd floor apartment
- 1 spacious living room
- Modern fitted Kitchen
- Pleasant family bathroom
- ToTown Centre Location
- Single glazed and gas central heating

£695 pcm



Glen Close

- A re-furnished 3 bed detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Brand new upstairs family bathroom
- Master en-suite and guest WC
- Driveway and integral double garage

£650 pcm



Launceston Close

- A splendid 3 bed detached property
- A spacious lounge with feature fire place
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with bath and shower
- Gas central heating and Double glazing
- Integral garage and a fully enclosed rear garden

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Bloxwich
STONEY LANE
• Four/Five Bed
• D.Glazing and Central Heating
• Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Utility
• Bathroom•Front Driveway•Parking

£1,100 PCM



Bloxwich
WOODALL STREET
• Four Bedroom Detached
• Through Lounge/Dining Room
• Fitted Kitchen•Guest Cloakroom W.C.
• Garage & Off Road Parking•Gardens

£750 PCM



Willenhall
KINGFISHER GROVE
• FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
• En-Suite•Conservatory & ORP
• Lounge/Dining Room•Kitchen•Utility
• Family Bathroom Front & Rear Gardens

£695 PCM



Bloxwich
WALKER ROAD
• Refurbished Four Bedroom Detached
• Shop/Office premises adjoined
• Gas Heating and Majority D.Glazing
• Two Reception Rooms•New Fitted

£695 PCM



Pelsall
WINDRUSH CLOSE
• 3 BED END TOWN HOUSE
• D.Glazing•Gas Heating•Kitchen
• Bathroom•Large Garden•Lounge/Diner
• Front Garden & Parking

£675 PCM



Willenhall
POOLE'S LANE
• THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
• D.Glazing•Gas Heating
• Parking•Kitchen/Diner•En-Suite
• Lounge•Bathroom•Sorry NO DHSS

£650 PCM



AMBERWOOD CLOSE
• Three Bed Semi
• D.Glazing and Gas Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Bathroom•Gardens•Utility
• Parking•Sorry No DHSS Accepted.

£595 PCM



Willenhall
CALSTOCK ROAD
• Three Bedroom Semi Detached
• Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen/Diner•Bathroom
• Front Garden with ORP•Sorry No DHSS

£575 PCM



Bloxwich
MASEFIELD ROAD
• THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
• Lounge•Newly Fitted Kitchen
• Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
• Ground Floor Bathroom•Gardens

£550 PCM



Walsall
BLOXWICH ROAD
• Three Bed End Terrace
• Through lounge•Fitted dining kitchen
• Large attached garage separate utility/
workshop to rear

£550 PCM



Bloxwich
LANCASTER PLACE
• Two Bedroom Semi
• Lounge•Diner/Kitchen
• Bathroom•D.Glazed
• Gas Heating•Gardens•DHSS Accepted

£525 PCM



Bloxwich
NURSERY ROAD
• Three Bedroom Semi
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Front Driveway • Double Glazing
• Gas Heating•DHSS Accepted

£525 PCM



Walsall
TONG STREET
• Modern Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
• D.Glazing and Central Heating
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen/Diner
• Family Bathroom•Rear Garden

£525 PCM



Bloxwich
CHURCH STREET
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Downstairs W.C. • Shower Room
• Rear Garden•Shared Access Drive

£495 PCM



Willenhall
LUCKNOW ROAD
• Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• D.Glazing & Central Heating•Gardens
• Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£495 PCM



Willenhall
POOLE'S LANE
• THREE BEDROOM SEMI
• D.Glazing•C.Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Front and Rear Gardens

£495 PCM



Walsall
DARTMOUTH CLOSE
• THREE BEDROOM TERRACE from
• Double Glazing•Lounges
• Dining Room
• Kitchen•Family Bathroom

£495 PCM



Bloxwich
VALLEY ROAD
• Three Bedroom Semi - Detached
• D.Glazing & Gas Central Heating
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Off Road Parking•Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Bloxwich
RYLE STREET
• Three Bedroom Terrace
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Gardens•Off Road Parking
• D.Glazing•Gas Heating

£480 PCM



Willenhall
KINGFISHER COURT
• Two Bed Apartment
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• D.Glazing•Central Heating
• Off Road Parking

£475 PCM



Walsall
TANNERS COURT
• Two Bedroom apartments
• Lounge-Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Master Bedroom with En suite

From £475 PCM



Walsall
BLACKTHORNE ROAD
• Two Bed Semi
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Part Gas Heated•D.Glazing
• Off Road Parking•Gardens

£475 PCM



Walsall
BOTANY ROAD
• Three Bed Terrace
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Gardens•Front Driveway
• Gas Heating & D.Glazing

£475 PCM



Walsall
BOTANY ROAD
• Two Bedroom Semi - Detached
• Lounge•Large Kitchen Diner•ORP
• Conservatory•Bathroom•DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM



Walsall
LEWIS STREET
• Two Bedroom Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms
• Bathroom•Double Glazing
• Central Heating

£450 PCM



Walsall
GURNEY ROAD
• Two Bedroom End Terrace
• Lounge•Kitchen
• Bathroom
• Downstairs W.C. • Garden

£450 PCM



Bloxwich
MAY STREET
• Three Bedroom Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms
• Kitchen•Bathroom•Gas Heating
• Rear Garden•DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Bloxwich
FOSTER STREET
• MODERN TWO Bedroom property.
• Lounge•rear garden•Fitted Kitchen
• Family Bathroom•Double Glazing
• Gas Central Heating

£450 PCM



Walker Road
GUILD COURT
• Three Bedroom Apartments
• Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
• Bathroom•Gas Central Heating
• Double Glazing•Allocated Parking

£425 PCM



Walsall
BLOXWICH ROAD
• One & Two Bedroom Flats
• Lounge•Kitchen•Parking
• Gas Central Heating
• DHSS Accepted

From £380 PCM



Bloxwich
HARRISON STREET
• Two Bedroom Flat
• Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
• Double Glazing•Electric heating
• DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Bloxwich
THE EXCHANGE
• First Floor One Bedroom Flat
• Above Retail Premises
• Lounge/Kitchen•Shower Room
• Separate W.C. • DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Walsall
TUDOR HOUSE
• One Bedroom Apartment
• Lounge•Bathroom•Kitchen
• Double glazing•Central heating
• Sorry No DHSS

£350 PCM



Bloxwich
MARTON COURT
• One & Two Bed Apartments
• Fitted kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom
• Double glazing•Electric Heating
• DHSS Accepted•Sorry No DHSS

From £350 PCM



Bloxwich
BROAD LANE
• One Bed Maisonette
• Kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom
• Shared Rear Garden•D. Glazing
• DHSS Accepted•Sorry No DHSS

£325 PCM



Bloxwich
BARRACKS LANE
• One Bedroom Flat
• Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
• Double Glazing•Electric Heating
• DHSS Accepted

£300 PCM

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Drivetime

Your guide to the latest
motoring news and views



Qashqai a modern motoring success

Question: What connects Paddington in central London, with Cranfield in rural Buckinghamshire as well as Sunderland in the far north of England?

The answer is one of the biggest success stories in modern motoring, in the shape

of the Nissan Qashqai, a car that almost by itself started a new trend for cars which look tall and tough but are as easy to park as a hatchback and about as economical to run.

Since the first one rolled off the production line in Sunderland in 2007, more than 1,700,000 have been built.

Taking the pressure from what the pop industry calls 'that second, difficult album', the team at Nissan's European design centre in Paddington did what all the research was telling them.

Existing Qashqai owners loved their cars but wouldn't mind a bit more style, a dash of extra technology and, please, keep a

tight rein on running costs. So the new Qashqai looks like an entirely logical development of the first car.

Allied to upgraded petrol and diesel engines, this sharper-suited Qashqai now slips below the road tax barrier in its most frugal version, and all the rest use less fuel than before.

For the way it feels on the road we have the 1,000-strong team at Nissan's technical centre in Cranfield to thank. And what a fine job they've done.

Qashqai customers told the Nissan pollsters they didn't want a Golf GTI, thank you, but something that made them feel confident to drive.

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Models Shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,495 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £269 per month example shown based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,456.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,456.64 (19%) deposit, New retail Jazz 1.2 S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspiration (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £3,158.36, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 5p per mile; New retail Jazz 1.2 S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspiration (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 S in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,495 On The Road (OTR). Total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,729.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £1,599.72, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 5p per mile. You must pay the hire Purchase Plan if you return the car at the end of the term or you must pay all other amounts due if the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by the Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. The 5 Year Care Package includes: **Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary roadside assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

Tourer joins Leon range

By John Griffiths

SEAT doesn't have the biggest range of models in the car market, but its sales rose above average last year, largely due to the popularity of its acclaimed new Leon.

Now it has added its first sports tourer to the Leon range, which even before its appearance was attracting lots of attention from dealers and potential customers.

With the same range of engines, and some extra equipment, the new estate, designated the ST, is a little over £800 more expensive than the equivalent hatch. Prices range from £16,675 for the petrol-powered 1.2TSI to £22,630 for the quick

yet economical FR, with its 184bhp diesel engine and DSG gearbox.

One of the reasons SEAT has launched the ST, it says, is to appeal to buyers 'downsizing' from more established estates. I think 'downcosting' might be a better description. With just 27cm added behind the rear axle, its 587-litre boot (with five on board), increasing to 1,470 litres with the rear seats down actually make it more capacious than many rivals.

That gives it the cargo carrying ability of a small van, as well as a practical option for the family. There's no struggling to reconfigure the interior, either – quick release buttons are positioned not on the seats but within easy reach of the tailgate.

It's likely to be a big hit with fleet users, with lower running costs and CO2 emissions. There will be a full-blown Ecomotive version with an 88g/km CO2 rating soon,



'That gives it the cargo carrying ability of a small van as well as being a practical option for the family'



but all models have fuel-saving features such as stop/start and energy recovery.

The entry level model is the 1.2 TSI. You'd be forgiven for thinking the lack of cubes would be a decided disadvantage for a car this size, but this is the VW Group's turbocharged petrol engine, giving a useful 105PS of power – more akin to the output of a 1.6 litre, but with fuel and CO2 savings.

It can average nearly 58mpg, with a low 114g/km of emissions, but its 0-62mph sprint time is still a far from sluggish 10 seconds. It's particularly quiet too, with the extra torque from the turbo making for

smoother progress, and less hard work, than many similar-sized petrol plants. The super-smooth seven-speed DSG automatic/sequential gearbox is an option, for around £1,000 extra.

With petrol now anything up to 10p per litre cheaper than diesel, this model is clearly an option for the private buyer who doesn't expect to do an astronomical annual mileage. There are 1.4 (140bhp) and 1.8 (180bhp) TSI models, the latter powering one of the two sporty FR versions.

Diesel options start with the 105PS, 1.6 litre model.

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Drivetime



XF range is boosted by addition of diesel model

It's Jaguar's introductory model with luxury and performance, but now also with a new high-economy diesel engine. Can it be thrifty and enjoyable?

It's a very busy time over at Jaguar, what with the F-Type Roadster now prowling the streets and the just-announced Coupe version ready to do the same. There's the high performance XJR to come too, but it's the more mainstream models that are relevant to most of us – which is why the XF is so important.

Jaguar has given the XF a few key updates for 2014 and, reflecting the times we live in, the most important change is the introduction of a more frugal new diesel engine.

The 2.2-litre four cylinder unit improves on the previous version with impressive figures of 129g/km of CO₂ and 57.7mpg, the kind of numbers that appeal to your wallet rather than your heart.

Part of the reason for the improvement is some clever techy stuff in the shape of a revised cooling system and a bigger EGR valve, but what makes greater sense to you and me is the stop-start system that cuts the engine out when not needed.

If you've not experienced stop-start before it might feel a bit weird, but once you trust that the engine will start again the instant you release the brake pedal it becomes second nature.

It all helps eke out a few more miles per gallon, and it's clever in other ways too – pull up and put the transmission in Park and it goes into stop mode, but release your seat belt and it knows you're home and switches off completely.

Theatre

You still get the XF's bit of theatre when you start up, as the air vents glide electrically open and the previously-flush circular gearlever rises up from between the seats.

The gearbox is also a new addition, with eight forward ratios.

That might seem like an awful lot, but out on the motorway the engine is barely above tickover at the legal limit, keeping noise levels down and fuel economy up.

Despite appearing focused on economy, the XF still offers a driving experience that's a cut above the norm.

Whether the speed is high or low it remains poised, filtering out bumps so you're aware of them, but no discomfort is caused.

Yet the flip side of this is that when you start to press on, the XF is every inch the sports saloon, gripping strongly and staying level and controlled through corners.

But the XF is a car you'd be happy to live with on a daily basis too.

The seats are supportive and comfortable, their heating will toast your behind if you leave them on full power, and the port-and-drawer audio system can make the worst traffic jams seem irrelevant.

Once upon a time Jaguars were all about the cut and thrust and weren't easy to justify on a financial basis. But this 2.2 Diesel XF is as economical and easy to live with as a fairly humble family hatchback, yet gives you so much more in terms of comfort, style and driving pleasure. It's hard not to be very impressed.

Jaguar and Land Rover are both winners in the 2014 BusinessCar Awards.

For the Jaguar XF it is a remarkable third successive Executive Car of the Year title, reinforcing its excellent reputation among fleet operators and business motorists, the people whose informed opinions decide the annual awards.

Paul Barker, BusinessCar Editor, said: "The Jaguar XF is a car that's constantly evolving to become more and more relevant to the fleet community, and that's reflected in its hat-trick of BusinessCar Executive Car of the Year awards."

"The XF Sportbrake with lower emitting diesel engines and expanded, more appealing specifications all add up to a car our readers have chosen as best in its segment against some serious competition."

Jaguar has continued to develop the model's strengths and the breadth of customer choice since its launch. This is underscored by the introduction of the XF Sportbrake and the engineering of powertrains that deliver lower emissions, which in turn attract highly competitive tax ratings for business customers. This quality is defined by the XF 2.2d, which delivers 163PS yet just 129g/km of CO₂.

The Range Rover Sport has secured the Large 4x4 of the Year award.

TESTED

Car: Jaguar XF 2.2 Diesel Premium Luxury 163, £35,795

Engine: 2.2-litre diesel unit producing 161bhp and 218lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving the rear wheels

Performance: Top speed 130mph, 0-62mph in 10.5 seconds

Economy: 57.7mpg combined

Emissions: 129g/km of CO₂

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New Honda Civic set to be a winner in its sector

The Honda Civic might just be at its best in sleek Tourer guise. With 642-litres of luggage room with the rear seats in place and the cleverest seat folding system in the business, it's well worth a look.

Small estate cars are usually horrible. The styling never quite works, the cars looking like a half of mirrors version of a bigger car, too high, not long enough and with an uncomfortable afterthought of glazing squirming the back end.

Every once in a while, an exception slips through the net, forcing you to wonder why car manufacturers find it so difficult to style what should be a longer and sleeker version of a supermini or family hatch. Here's one to join that exclusive list, the Honda Civic Tourer.

This estate version of the ninth generation Civic is built in Britain and doesn't come saddled with huge expectations. The compact estate car market has always been a bit of a backwater niche over here, so perhaps it's time for one model to get a solid run at it and turn things around.

So why does the Civic Tourer look so different to the usual cut and paste compact estate designs?

The first thing to note is that there's a genuinely cohesive front-to-rear flow to the design.

The rear end doesn't look like a hasty addition. Its styling is defined by a bold line that runs continuously from the front A-pillar to the D-pillar, creating the impression of a floating roof line.

The glass of the rear quarter window has been extended to cover the body work of the D-pillar and the rear door sash has been raised by 17mm compared to the Civic hatchback to create this bold styling line.

Inside, you get probably the best one-handed seat folding operation in the business - Honda's Magic Seats system. The interior boot floor has been raised compared to the hatchback to create a completely flat area when the seats are folded down. The rear seat cushions can also be flipped up to reveal ample floorspace for carrying tall objects. A 60:40 split in the seat base offers even more options for carrying both people and cargo. You get 624 cubic litres of boot volume with the rear seats in place and up to 1668-litres when they're folded.

Prices start at just over £20,000 for the base 1.8 i-VTEC petrol model, so you're talking a premium of around £1,900 over the equivalent five-door hatch. There's a choice of two engines, a 142PS 1.8 i-VTEC petrol with auto or manual transmission and manual gearbox 120PS 1.6 i-DTEC diesel.

As for equipment, well even the entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT), DAB Radio, USB connectivity and 16in alloy wheels.

Benefit

In addition to these items, the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17in alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD sat nav and privacy glass. Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washers, smart entry and start capability, a sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights with auto levelling.

The 1.6-litre diesel might at first seem to be the poor relation to Honda's 2.2-litre unit in terms of power but it aces the larger capacity engine when it comes to running costs.

Consider this. You'll get almost 75mpg from the astonishingly economical 120PS 1.6 diesel on the combined cycle. For a company which once thought diesel engines a bad idea, Honda has really stolen a march here.

The diesel engine is an absolute gem and safety and security are top drawer. Plus the Civic Tourer's styling is bold, clever and successful and crucially, there's plenty of space inside. Honda's folding seating system is the best in the business too. In summary, this car turns an average hatchback into a surprisingly effective and desirable estate.

It's not without its caveats, but right now this is the Civic body to choose and by quite some margin.

The creative team behind Honda's recent smash-hit viral film 'Hands' is aiming for further success with a new TV advertising campaign to welcome the Civic Tourer into Honda dealerships across the UK.

The campaign celebrates the idea that beauty is about much more than what appears on the surface. The creative plays to the trend in design, engineering and wider society of looks being valued over substance.

The viewer is taken on a journey through various objects, including a golf ball, suitcase, chest of drawers and a guitar amp, to reveal the inner beauty of each.

It then goes on to position the new Civic Tourer as another perfect example of 'Inner Beauty'; dynamic and sporty-looking, yet under the surface there lies practicality and function...).

Olivia Dunn, head of marketing for Honda (UK) said: "Take a first glance at the Civic Tourer and you see a great-looking car."

"This campaign takes the viewer beyond that first appearance to emphasise the balance between style and performance, and the incredible practicality that the car delivers."

"Once again the team behind 'Hands' has brought the message to life in a fresh, innovative and compelling way in line with Honda's high standards and unique style."



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SPORT**Aldridge exiled as Brummies fight back****Aldridge 12**

BIRMINGHAM EXILES 12
VISITORS Birmingham Exiles managed to keep Aldridge penned inside their half-way line for much of the first-half of this friendly fixture.

The home side managed to limit the visitors to a single score – hooker Kieran Walters crossing the try line.

Aldridge were creating opportunities but the Exiles defence was also sound and it wasn't until half way through that Aldridge finally managed to find a breach via a rolling maul which shunted the visitor's pack back over their line-allowing winger Dan McKenna to claim the touch down. Full back Alex Yates added the extras and just five minutes later a miss move by the three-quarters found winger Jay Bromwich in space out wide who crossed into the corner to give Aldridge a 12-5 cushion and a basis for some optimism. The status quo remained right through to "last play" when Exiles finally managed to break out and force play up to the Aldridge line for the last frantic seconds. The ubiquitous penalty was quickly taken allowing centre Dan Williams to score. Winger Alex Gibson converted to even the scores.

Teamwork brings Blox the result

Kingswinford 0
Bloxwich Men's 1st XI 8
BLOXWICH followed up last week's excellent result with another superb team display in which they obliterated an off-the-park Kingswinford team.

Bloxwich started very cagily and spent the first 10 minutes nervously defending against a strong and well-drilled Kingswinford attack.

Jamie Bayliss made some world class saves to keep Bloxwich in the game. From then on, Bloxwich managed to use their speed attack to great effect with Adam Baldwin opening the scoring. The goals kept on coming for Bloxwich with them sitting comfortably on a 3-0 lead at half time despite not playing their best hockey. In the second half Bloxwich started to play with a lot more fluidity with Adam Baldwin scoring three more to make it four for the game, Dan Mazurek got one as did, Eddie Marrocco and Gary Williams two.

Davis to host tournament

ONE of snooker's true legends will be giving players in Wolverhampton the chance to be champions.

Steve Davis, who won the World Championships six times in the 1980s, will take a break from his TV commitments to visit the city next month to run a tournament featuring 64 students from Highfields School in Penn.

The students, who are all aged between 11 and 16, will battle it out over 15-minute single frame contests with the winner crowned champion.

The school's sports hall will be converted into a mini Crucible for the tournament on March 4.

We deserved a point, says Lambert**Everton 2 Villa 1**

PAUL LAMBERT insisted Villa were worthy of a point. He had a case but there are still some inconsistencies to his argument.

In the context of the season defeat at Everton is not a disgrace. The Toffees have lost once in 21 Premier League games at Goodison Park and vigorous Villa came close but still fell short.

The manager's assertions his team deserved a result were based on their defensive display, a rear-guard action which almost worked.

Villa were 16 minutes from a

fine away victory and five minutes from an excellent point before Kevin Mirallas' wonderful free-kick arched beyond Brad Guzan.

Up until then they were defensively sound, organised and compact with Everton looking devoid of ideas for long periods.

It was becoming the perfect away performance, if a little smash and grab. Those are the positives, logical and fair points from Lambert.

The other school of thought is Villa came for a point, hoping to snatch what they could and run against a team who used to be

Football

their equals. Villa are an average mid-table side who will flirt with relegation, such is the nature of this season's Premier League.

Those expecting the same smashbuckling approach which yielded a point at Liverpool two weeks prior were disappointed.

Villa lack the consistency – or the underlying quality – to maintain that level of performance, especially with Gabby Agbonlahor out with a foot injury.

Take Agbonlahor away and

Villa are shorn of 70 per cent of their threat on the counter attack.

Villa had one shot on target – Leandro Bacuna's goal – as Christian Benteke and Grant Holt failed to shine.

The argument that Villa deserved something starts to fall flat when the attacking stats are scrutinised.

Lambert was also outfoxed by Roberto Martinez – who turned Villa down in 2010 – as he failed to adjust to Everton's switch after Steven Pienaar was introduced at half time. Aiden McGeady cracked a fine effort against the post early

on but it was a rare chance during a turgid opening – until Villa took the lead on 34 minutes.

Fabian Delph robbed Ross Barkley, Benteke found Bacuna and the Dutchman drilled through Tim Howard's legs.

It was as good as it got though as Villa failed to conjure another shot on target. It was Pienaar's pass which breached Villa's defences as they finally caved to allow fellow substitute Steven Naismith to level with 16 minutes left.

Everton scored from Mirallas' brilliant free kick after Ciaran Clark's needless foul.

Clark lauds comeback as Blues equalise**Blues 3 Derby 3**

LEE CLARK hailed Birmingham's "never-say-die" attitude after seeing his inexperienced group of wags and strays come from 3-1 down to draw at home to Derby.

Debutant Federico Macheda stabbed home an injury-time equaliser to earn a morale-boosting point for Clark's struggling side, who featured five debutants in total as off-field problems continue to affect matters on the pitch.

Steve McLaren's Derby had been vastly superior for the most part, despite going behind to Brian Howard's 48th-minute header. The Rams struggled through Patrick Bamford and had a two-goal lead thanks to Chris Martin and Craig Forsyth's goals.

However, Chris Burke's 78th-minute strike kept City in touch before fellow substitute Macheda, signed on loan from Manchester United late on Friday, stabbed home an unlikely leveller.

"If they give me that from now until the end of the season we'll get lots of positive results," said Clark, who is operating on a shoe-string budget while the club continues to struggle in the face of owner Carson Yeung's legal problems.

The Lions chew on Boney Hay**Lichfield & Walsall District Football League**

League One: A C Lions 3

Boney Hay 1

League Two: Ros Park 2

Longdon Chet 5

Trident 1 Duke of Wellington 1

League Four: Cellar Door

4 Bowman FC 1

Eximus Warriors 0 Wych Elm 2

Oak Park Rangers 2 Dosthill Rangers 0

Jack Donnelly Cup - Round Three

Trent Valley Rovers 4

Green Rock Tavern 1

Lichfield Challenge Cup - Round Two

Burntwood Dragons 2

B-hills Comm. 1

Freemans FC 5 Swan FC 0

League Trophy - Group A Burntwood Star 3 Boatmans Rest 4

Dog FC 1 Shire Oak FC 0

League Trophy - Group D Paradise FC 1 Turnpike 2

Staffs Sam Kimberley - Quarter Final

Hazelshade 0 Shelfield FC 1

League Trophy - Group B Burntwood Star 3 Boatmans Rest 4

Dog FC 1 Shire Oak FC 0

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SPORT

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Ashton puts end to Pics win run

Ashton United 2 Rushall Olympic 0

RUSHALL'S seven-game unbeaten run came to an end when two first-half goals proved enough for play-off rivals Ashton United to pick up all three points.

Despite the Pics carving out some excellent chances, the home side deserved their victory and the three points take them into a play-off spot in the Northern League Premier Division.

The Pics suffered a blow in the pre-match warm-up when Jimmy Turner suffered an injury and James Dance was unavailable, so manager Neil Kitching gave a debut to new signing Karl Ashton, on loan from Stafford Rangers.

The home side, who have been in good form recently, opened up well and Matt Chadwick drove an early chance over the bar.

They went in front on 18 minutes when Jack Duggan's back-pass to Chris Gemmill was far too heavy and the keeper could only sidefoot the ball straight to the impressive Chris Baguley, who played in debutant Aaron Chambers to score his first goal for the club.

In first-half added time, Chadwick fed in Martin Pilkington, whose first effort was saved by Gemmill, but the ball dropped favourably for the striker to find the net and double the lead.

Villa refute sale claims

ASTON Villa have rejected claims they have been put up for sale.

The claret and blues have rubbished reports they are on the market and chairman Randy Lerner wants to sell.

Lerner bought Villa for £62.6m in 2006 and was reportedly looking for £200m to get a return on his investment, including transfer fees and upgrades to Villa Park and Bodymoor Heath.

But Villa have distanced themselves and insisted Lerner is not looking to leave.

Chief executive Paul Faulkner said: "I can categorically confirm Aston Villa Football Club has absolutely not been put up for sale and that Randy Lerner is not actively looking to sell the club." The speculation came after Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Everton as Villa conceded twice in the last 16 minutes to lose at Goodison Park.

Rosenberg heads out as contract is cancelled

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2005. He played for Ajax, Racing Santander and Werder Bremen before joining the Baggies on a free transfer.

Rosenberg confirmed his departure on Twitter and added: "Good luck for the rest of the season Boing Boing."

Meanwhile, straight-talking keeper Ben Foster today warned Albion: "We're not too good to go down".

The Baggies' No.1 insists former glories will count for nothing as Pepe Mel's side look to avoid the drop from the Premier

League, Albion have finished 11th, 10th and eighth in the last three Premier League seasons but find themselves just a point above the relegation zone with 14 games remaining.

Foster said: "A lot of people say to me from the outside that we are too good to get relegated. But that doesn't mean anything. We've got to get on with it ourselves."

"They say over 38 games that if you are relegated then you deserve to be. It's all in our hands but we have to crack on and get the points."

The Baggies picked up a useful draw at home to Liverpool on Sunday but they head

for fellow strugglers Crystal Palace on Saturday still in trouble after wins for survival rivals Cardiff, West Ham and Sunderland.

Foster said: "I was watching at home and it was incredible. All of the teams at the bottom were winning, which was typical! But you can't look to anyone else, you've just got to look at yourselves. We're in the dogfight and we have to concentrate on ourselves."

"We'll take confidence from the performance in the second-half on Sunday and take it into the weekend." New boss Pepe Mel has made an encouraging start to his reign despite a derby defeat to Villa.

Gauntlet down to strikers

MANAGER Dean Smith is urging his promotion-chasing Walsall side to respond to the presence of new man Michael Ngoo.

The young on-loan Liverpool striker was deprived of an immediate introduction to action when the Saddlers League One clash against Coventry was postponed at the weekend.

But that means all eyes will be on him for this weekend's Banks's Stadium clash with MK Dons when Smith's team will attempt to strengthen their top six challenge.

And while Saddlers fans will hope the raw 6ft 6in, 21-year-old striker will bring a different dimension to their attack, he wants his presence to also trigger a reaction among his team mates.

"What we want is competition for places up there," says Smith as he assessed the potential for impact of Ngoo's arrival.

"I have challenged Troy (Hewitt), just speaking to him and saying I have brought another centre-forward in, it's a challenge for you as well. They all want to play at the moment. They know it is a good place and we are on an unbeaten run."

Rugby match is rearranged

WALSALL'S rearranged game at Malvern was postponed once more as the wet weather swept across the Malverns. This game has now been rescheduled for the end of this month.

Meanwhile, it is hoped the Delves Road pitch will be playable this Saturday when Market Bosworth are the visitors. Kick off is at 2.15pm.

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WOLVES MOVE INTO THE ZONE

Bradford 0 Wolves 2

AT last, then, Kenny Jackett's team were able to make headway in their quest for automatic promotion and a return to the top two more than made up for the slight anti-climax of a blank day for the returned Clarke.

Wolves have been getting better and playing well but in choosing to fix what wasn't broken, Jackett has been decisive and bold in continuing his now expansive rewiring of a team suffering from a shortage of goal power.

In truth, there was nothing in this game from which any great conclusions could be drawn because it was over as a contest before the half hour when Bradford City's Nathan Doyle collected the second of two quick bookings.

From that moment, the 10 men he left behind knew what was coming even if they fought manfully to delay it for as long as possible.

But a week which included a 3-0 victory at Oldham, in which all the goals were scored by Jackett signings, closed with Clarke's inclusion extending the head coach's revamp.

At the start of the season, and with Wolves retaining significant personnel from the carnage of double relegations, a slower pace of change was imagined.

The message from Friday's last-day-of-business dealings, however, was that of a head coach who sees little value in retaining yesterday's personnel.

Wolves, though, had to wait until added time at the end of the first half to make

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the breakthrough although when it came it confirmed the rising importance of McDonald to this team.

He is now in the richest form of his first Molineux season and further justified the attentions of his international manager with an intelligent finish from a chance provided by Sako - passing the ball into the net with precision from the area's fringes.

Alongside him, Price is growing in stature. For such a young player, he carries the priceless virtue of keeping his game simple but effective with faultless decision-making, passing it at the right time and invariably accurately.

Bakary Sako's return to the fray also continues to enliven Wolves. It was his cross, after escaping down the side of Bradford's tiring defence, which was forced home by the combination of Dicko and Darby just before the hour.

The goals which followed at different venues to the west and the north were bonuses Wolves happily received. So a fourth win in a row and a little chink, in the armour-plated results-gathering of the teams above.



Nouha Dicko is on the spot to make it 2-0 to Wolves in their away game at Bradford at the weekend

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